



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025

Important Notices

Friday 19 th September	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 6 th October	First Day of Term 4
Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th October	Fijian Language Week



From Our Principal

The third term has been a successful term both in the classroom, on the stage and on the sporting fields. Importantly, our attendance as a school has been consistently above the national average, and in terms of credits earned for Year 12 and 13 we are the best we have ever been for this time of year. In Year 9 and 10 students have made an excellent effort with homework with approximately an 80% completion rate. For senior students the next two weeks should be a time for regular study and preparation for the November exams.

Thank you to all our families for the support over the last ten weeks.

BOT Election Results

Thank you to all the parents who voted in our recent school board elections. The new board has officially taken office, although our first Board meeting will be in the holidays.

Congratulations to the following people who have been elected onto the Otago College School Board.

Parent Representatives: Susan Afoa, Hannah Coleman, John Pulu, Jasmine Reynolds, Craig Sionetauto

Staff Representative: Rulon Brown

Student Representative: Manako Lutui

We would also like to thank those parent nominees who put their names forward and thank them for being prepared to serve as a board member.

Curriculum News

Year 11 Term 3 Update

The Year 11 cohort have shown commendable growth this term in their commitment to learning, future planning, and school engagement. Highlights include:

- Improved attendance to school and classes
- A significant reduction in onsite truancy
- Increased curiosity and questions around future pathways and academic achievement
- Stronger results in Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy assessments

These achievements reflect the hard work and determination of our Year





11 students. They should be proud of their progress as they head into Term 4.

Well done, Year 11!



Holiday Revision – Preparing for NCEA Exams

While the holidays are a valuable time to rest and recharge, it's also important that students maintain momentum as they prepare for their upcoming NCEA Level 1 exams in November.

Here are some effective revision strategies students can use at home:

- Set a Study Schedule: Break revision into manageable chunks across the break. Aim for short, focused sessions (30–45 minutes) with regular breaks.
- Use Past Papers: Practice with previous NCEA exam papers to become familiar with question formats and time management.
- Create Summary Notes: Condense key concepts into mind maps, flashcards, or bullet-point summaries.
- Teach Someone Else: Explaining a topic to a friend or family member helps reinforce understanding.
- Use Online Tools: Platforms like Studylt, NZQA, and subject-specific YouTube channels offer great revision resources.
- Balance is Key: Encourage a healthy mix of study, rest, and physical activity to stay refreshed and motivated.

We encourage all students to make the most of this time to prepare confidently for their final assessments.

Arts and Culture News

On Friday, 12th September, our Year 12 and 13 Dance class had the exceptional opportunity to perform in the 'Rising Stars' Dance Showcase held at Mangere Arts Centre. This event was part of a creative health initiative in collaboration with Brown Pride and BEAST Dance Collective, supported by Te Whatu Ora's Alcohol Harm Prevention program. The Kaupapa engaged four South Auckland schools—Alfriston, Aorere, Mangere, and Otahuhu Colleges, utilizing dance and movement as powerful tools to explore themes of mental health, identity, and alcohol harm prevention. Our lead choreographers were Corbyn Taulealea-Huch and Byron Fa'aui. Additionally, the students had the valuable opportunity to contribute their own original choreography, showcasing the exceptional creativity of our gifted dancers - an element that was clearly evident throughout the show.

Our technical rehearsal began at 3 PM. Although many of our Year 12 and 13 students were relatively new to performing in such a setting, the positive feedback from students and teachers from other schools was





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overwhelmingly encouraging. Our students represented our school with outstanding energy and professionalism, and I am immensely proud of how they conducted themselves throughout the event.

The Rising Stars Showcase was a huge success, culminating in a vibrant celebration with family and friends in attendance. It was especially meaningful that the event was free, allowing the wider community to support and engage with our talented young performers. Many families expressed excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to witness their children perform live, particularly for those experiencing a stage performance for the first time. It was a privilege to provide our students with this memorable experience, and I look forward to the next as this will not be the last time these students will be seen on stage :)



STEM News

On Thursday 18 September, Rocket Lab, a private aerospace company based in Auckland, gave our students a rare opportunity to tour its facilities, including the rocket factory and mission control. The tour offered a fascinating behind the scenes look at the development and manufacturing of the Electron rocket.

Twenty of our Year 11 and Year 12 students took part in the visit. They learnt about the different stages of building a rocket, explored the physics and chemistry behind rocket dynamics, and saw the impressive range of equipment and machinery involved in the process.

It was a fun, exciting and eye-opening experience that sparked curiosity and inspired many.



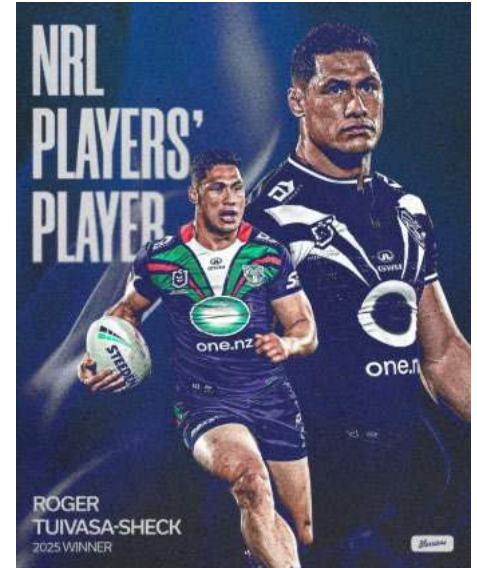
Sports News

Otago Alumni Shine at One NZ Warriors Awards

Otago College is celebrating its proud sporting tradition following the success of two former students at the 2025 One NZ Warriors Awards evening.

Rugby league star **Roger Tuivasa-Sheck** and rising talent **Apii Nicholls** were both recognised for their outstanding performances throughout the season, adding to Otago College rich legacy of producing top-level athletes.

The College extended its warm congratulations to both Roger and Apii, acknowledging not only their achievements on the field but also the inspiration they continue to provide for the next generation of Otago College students.



Kotuku News

Kotuku class celebrated Te Wiki o te Reo Māori by writing our own pepehas, making poi, and singing waiata.

