



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 10th October 2025

Important Notices

Tuesday 14 th – Friday 17 th October	Arts Week
Thursday 16 th October	Arts Awards evening
Thursday 23 rd October	Sports Awards



From Our Principal

Welcome back to the start of the fourth term. It has been great to see so many students taking advantage of the last two weeks of the tutorials, workshops and programmes that are available.

This term is important for all students at Otahuhu College. For our Year 9 and 10 students they have exams which will determine which classes they are in next year. Our seniors face NCEA externals and the completion of final internals. As a school every staff member will be doing their very best to help lift the academic achievement of our students. There will be many tutorials and workshops available, and all students must be at school every day to take advantage of the expert support which is available. Unfortunately, it is likely that this term will be disrupted by industrial action. If that happens our priority will be our Year 12 and 13 students. With that in mind we have a contingency plan in place so that school will continue for Year 12 and 13 students despite any proposed industrial action and all year 12 and 13 students will be expected at school.

On Thursday night we celebrated our first awards evening of the year. Service Awards is recognition for the mainly unseen work done by our students in service to others and the wider community. A long-standing tradition of the College, and a chance to acknowledge so many outstanding young men and women.

Our Commitments

Our commitment is to be respectful. A key part of being respectful is using appropriate language. Learning what words, and indeed the volume, you use in different circumstances is one of the challenges of growing up into young men and women. Teenagers find this hard to do, so talking to them and explaining how different situations require the use of different words and mannerisms is a great step on developing articulate respectful young men and women.

Attendance

Chronic absenteeism has a lifelong impact. Research shows that chronically absent students are far less likely to achieve qualifications and, as adults, earn \$40,000 less annually by age 25. This income gap highlights the importance of addressing absenteeism early.

At Otahuhu College, students who miss 10-15 days in a term are referred to Attendance Services for additional support, while those who miss 15 or more days trigger a referral to Oranga Tamariki. These steps are designed to identify and eliminate the barriers preventing students from attending school. Let's make attendance a priority to safeguard our students' futures.



Ko e fānau 'oku nau li'aki ako ma'u pe'e 'oku mole honau faingamālie ke ma'u ha pa'anga 'oku lahi. E a'afia le lumana'i o tamaiti pe'a le auai i le aoga. E le tutusa tupe e maua a tamaiti e le to'a'aga i le a'oga ma tamaiti e 'auai i a'oga i aso uma pe'a matutua e tusa ma su'esu'ega a le matagaluega.

Study News



Countdown to Level 1 Exams – 4 Weeks to Go! Level 1 exams, which contribute toward students' Certificates of Educational Achievement, begin in just four weeks.

With limited time remaining, it is essential that Year 11 students focus their efforts on:

- Attending all scheduled tutorials and support sessions
- Engaging fully in class activities and discussions
- Committing to consistent and focused home study

These final weeks are critical. Prioritising preparation now will place students in the strongest possible position to succeed in their NCEA Level 1 assessments.

Year 11 students are working toward successfully completing the academic year in alignment with the expectations set by Ōtāhuhu College at the beginning of the year.

Students who do not meet the basic requirements by the end of Term 4 may be required to either re-sit specific Level 1 subjects or repeat Year 11 in 2026.

We encourage all students to stay focused, seek support when needed, and make the most of the remaining weeks to achieve their goals.



- **Level 1 Literacy** (5 Reading & 5 Writing credits - *achieved through CAA or alternate credits*)
- **Level 1 Numeracy** (10 credits)
- **80% Attendance**
- **Engagement grade of 3 or above**
- **Participation in an extra-curricular activity**



Junior School (Year 9 – 10)

As we begin Term 4, our junior students are encouraged to take part in the range of extracurricular opportunities available across departments and sports. These activities provide valuable experiences beyond the classroom - supporting teamwork, leadership, and personal growth.

From academic clubs to cultural and sporting opportunities, there are many ways for students to get involved, connect with others, and contribute positively to our school community. The tables below outline what's on offer for our juniors this term.

Departmental Extracurricular Activity	Location	Time	Teacher in Charge
Junior Philosophy Club	A1	Thursday, break 1	Mr. Hart
Junior Beginner French Club	A1	Tuesday and Thursday, break 2	Mr. Hart
Junior Expert French Club	A1	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, break 2	Mr. Hart
Writing Club <i>All year levels</i>	Library	Tuesday, break 2	The English Teachers
English Help Centre <i>All year levels</i>	Library	Thursday after school	The English Teachers
Photography club <i>All year levels</i>	M27	Tuesday break 2	Ms. Corin
Art club <i>All year levels</i>	M27	Thursday 3pm-4.30pm	Ms. Corin
Robotics Club	M10	Tuesday & Thursday 3pm-4pm	Mr. Morales

Junior School Summer Sports in Term 4			
Sporting extra-curricular	Summary	Time	Teacher in Charge
Boys volleyball	Training runs every week on set days. Students will need to commit to training and game days.	Training: Mondays and Wednesdays 3pm-4.30pm. Games: Thursday afterschool	Ms. Ofanoa



Girls volleyball	Training runs every week on set days. Students will need to commit to training and game days.	Training: Mondays and Tuesdays 3pm-4.30pm. Games: Thursday afterschool	Mr. Tamati
Waka ama	Students will train throughout term 4 then race in outrigger canoes against other schools in a one-day tournament (ODT).	Training: TBC ODT: To be confirmed closer to date	Mr. McAllister
Boys Rugby Sevens	This sport is played in a one-day tournament format where multiple short games are played across the day.	Training: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3.10pm - 4.30pm. ODT: To be confirmed closer to date	Mr. Brown
Tennis	Students train each week and go on to play singles and doubles matches every weekend.	Training: TBC Games: Saturday morning	Mr. Abdale-Weir
Rowing	Students train regularly and then compete at weekend one-day regattas, with multiple races across the season.	Training: TBC Games: Saturday regattas to be confirmed closer to date.	Ms. Tuiasosopo
Tag	This sport is played in a one-day tournament format where multiple short games are played across the day.	Training: TBC ODT: To be confirmed closer to date	Mr. Falealii

STEM News

On Thursday 9 October, our Year 11 science students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Danone Factory. The trip offered a fascinating look into the world of baby milk formula production, from the bustling production line to the science behind the scenes.

Students learnt about the Danone business and explored a wide range of careers connected to the industry. These included roles such as biologists, chemists, biochemists, nutritionists and midwives. It was an eye-opening experience that showed how science, health and manufacturing come together to support families and babies around the world.

A big thank you to Danone for hosting us and inspiring our students to think about the many pathways their futures could take.



Service Awards

The recent Service Awards evening was a heartwarming celebration of dedication and selflessness within our school community. The event honoured individuals who have generously contributed their time and energy across various areas of school life.

The venue was filled to capacity with proud parents and whānau, creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere. It was a night of recognition, gratitude, and joy as we acknowledged the many acts of service that help make our school a better place.

Special congratulations goes to Shafifa Begum, who was awarded the Overall Service Award Cup for her

outstanding commitment and contributions. Her efforts truly embody the spirit of service we value so deeply.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the night a memorable success.



Sports News

Junior Netball & Boys' Team Success 2025.

We are proud to announce that all our junior teams finished 1st in their respective grades at the Auckland Netball Competition.

- Year 9A
- Year 9B

- Year 10A

Each team had a fantastic season, showing great commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm. For most, it was their first year learning the game, while others continued to grow and refine their skills as the season progressed.

Congratulations to all our players on an outstanding season!

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate our Boy's Netball Team, who placed 3rd in the Counties Manukau Netball Competition, an incredible achievement this season.

A huge thank you to Ms Blackman for her efforts and commitment to our Boys team this season. Your support and leadership have been invaluable.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and whānau for your ongoing support. You've been an essential part of our success, and we couldn't have done it without you.



New School Sports Rule Coming in 2026

From 2026, students across New Zealand will need to have at least **80% school attendance** if they want to play in school sports teams.

The new rule, set by **the Ministry of Education and School Sport New Zealand**, aims to get students coming to school more often and taking their studies seriously. The idea is that if students want to play sports, they also need to show up and put effort into their schoolwork.

Many teachers and principals support the change, saying that being at school regularly helps students build good habits like discipline, teamwork, and commitment — the same skills that help in sports.