



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Important Notices

Monday 6 th October	First Day of Term 4
Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th October Thursday 9 th October	Fijian Language Week Service Awards
Tuesday 14 th – Friday 17 th October Thursday 16 th October	Arts Week Arts Awards evening



From Our Principal

Welcome back to the start of the fourth term. It has been great to see so many students taking advantage during 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.

From next year secondary school sport will be introducing an 80% attendance requirement to participate in national tournaments and other events. Consequently, Otahuhu College will be lifting the attendance requirement for participation in extra curricular to 80% from the start of 2026.

Our Commitments

Our commitment for next week is to be on time. This means more than just being at school by 8:30am and moving quickly and quietly to class. Good time management is an important aspect of being successful. For our students they need to know when their assignments are due to be handed in. A good idea is 3 days before the due date for your children to show you their assignments, this way you can check if they have finished, or need to work really hard to get the assignment finished by the due date. From time to time students may not have finished all the expected work during class time, when this happens in the last period of the day, your child will likely be required to stay behind 5-10 minutes to complete the work to a standard expected at Otahuhu College. If you have any concerns regarding this, please contact the Principal.

Otahuhu College Behaviour and Discipline Policy – Key Highlights

At Otahuhu College, we are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment. Our Behaviour and Discipline Policy outlines clear expectations for students and ensures consistent, fair, and restorative responses to any breaches.

Key Expectations:

Respect: Treat others and property with dignity.

Engagement: Participate actively in learning.



Punctuality: Be on time and prepared for school and classes.

Uniform: Wear the correct school uniform with pride.

Support Available: The Health and Wellbeing Centre offers counselling and mental health support. Internal programmes, including anger management and drug and alcohol education, are available for students needing additional support. Restorative practices help repair harm and rebuild relationships.

Consequences for Breaches: Consequences are proportionate and may range from detentions for minor issues to stand-downs or suspensions for more serious matters, such as fighting or drug-related incidents. Repeat offences may lead to further disciplinary actions, and serious breaches may be reported to the police. Victims of criminal acts are encouraged to seek support and report to authorities.

Our goal is to help all students thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Thank you for your cooperation in upholding the values of Otahuhu College.

Cell Phones Not to be used between 8:30am and 3:00pm

Government regulations require that schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunchtime and breaks. This includes students who are on a school course or visit outside the school grounds.

Guidelines

- Ōtāhuhu College is not responsible for the loss of cell phones if brought to school or on school-based activities.
- Cell phones are to be kept in student's bags and turned off between the hours of 8:30am and 3pm.
- In case of emergency parents are to contact the school office on 963 4000.
- Teachers may grant students the use of their phones for specific learning purposes. In which case phone use will be actively supervised.
- Breach of this policy will result in the phone being confiscated for the rest of the day.
- Dispensations can be granted for exceptional Health and Safety reasons.
- Parents must apply in writing
- Dispensation can be granted by the principal
- A pass will be issued to the student

Uniforms

Otahuhu College has a proud tradition and we expect students to take pride in wearing their uniform to



and from school, and we seek your assistance in getting things right. If your child is unsure of our uniform expectations, please refer them to the Deans. We have a great deal of pride in our achievements and want that reflected in how our students wear their uniform and the pride they have in Otago College.

The uniform is available at NZ Uniforms in Penrose and available online: <https://otahuhucollege.nzuniforms.com/catalog/Browse-By-Category-1103684.htm>

Correct school uniform is to be worn to and from school.

Students must be wearing completely black shoes, for health and safety reasons these must be enclosed shoes. Males are to wear school socks, pulled up. Females plain white socks.

No undergarments (T shirts etc) should be visible, unless a plain white short sleeved top. There are Otago College hats available, non uniform hats will be confiscated.

If students are wearing incorrect uniform, it is their responsibility to see the Dean first thing in the morning.

Students without a uniform pass will have items confiscated for the remainder of the term.

Attendance

Did you know that chronically absent students, by the time they are 25 years old, earn an average of \$40,000 less per year than their peers who regularly attended school? Missing school doesn't just affect students' academic progress—it impacts their long-term career opportunities and financial stability.

At Otago College, we take absenteeism seriously and intervene early to prevent long-term consequences. Students who miss 10-15 days in a term are referred to Attendance Services, while those with 15 or more days absent are reported to Oranga Tamariki. These measures ensure that students and their families get the support they need to prioritize attendance. Let's work together to secure brighter futures for our students.

Ko e fānau 'oku nau nofo mei he akó, ko e ki'i pa'anga si'isi'i pē 'oku nau ma'ú, \$40,000 'o a'u ki he'enau ta'u 25. Koia ai, ma'u ako 'i he 'aho kotoa pē ke ma'u ha kaha'u 'oku lelei.

Ua fa'amaonia i su'esu'ega o tamaiti e le to'a'aga i le a'oga e maua se tupe itiiti e \$40,000 i le tausaga i le taimi e 25 ai tausaga le matua. E fa'aluaina ma fa'atoluina lea seleni pe'a to'aga i le a'oga i le taimi e aulia ai le 25 tausaga. To'aga i le aoga i aso uma mo se lumana'i manuia.



Study News

October is dedicated to intense exam preparation. Your NCEA Level 3 results play a significant role in university admission, so aim for excellence. Use past papers, attend study sessions, and clarify doubts with teachers. Take care of your mental health during this high-pressure period—regular breaks and healthy habits make a big difference. Check in with Mr. Finau, the University Navigator, for tips on managing this critical period effectively.