



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

### Important Notices

|   |  |
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| November 4 <sup>th</sup>                            | NZQA Exams start                               |
| November 5 <sup>th</sup> – November 7 <sup>th</sup> | Y10 Leadership Camp HRT                        |
| November 12 <sup>th</sup>                           | FAO's (Further Assessment Opportunities) start |



## *From Our Principal*

This week we farewelled one of our long serving staff members, Mrs Julie Rogers, we are grateful for her service to our community and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Preparation for exams are well under way, and it is great to see so many students taking advantage of the tutorials available and most importantly making time to study and revise at home. It is at this time of year that I am often asked how families can help at home with their child's learning and getting the good grades they need. The following are some important ways of helping your child succeed:

- Make sure they get to school every day. Teachers will be helping students with their exam preparation and practise as well as finishing of assessments.
- The senior students should be studying and working on their assessments at home. At this time of year half an hour for each exam subject should be a minimum for home study.
- This time of year can be stressful for students and families. One father told me that he makes a cup of tea for his son while he is studying. Little things like that can make such a difference.

Thanks for all the support you give to your children's education.

## *Our Commitments*

Please remind your child that they need to move to class as soon as the first bell goes, and they should be seated, with their books out and bags on the floor ready to learn by the second bell. 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 Otago College. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the Principal

## *Attendance*

The school day begins at 8:35 a.m., and arriving on time ensures students don't miss critical announcements and lessons. Regular punctuality fosters responsibility and a sense of routine, both of which are essential for academic and personal success.

Parents can assist by setting consistent morning routines and ensuring students are prepared the night before. If your child is struggling with getting to school on time, contact our attendance team for support. Together, we can help every student succeed from the start of the school day.

Kamata e 'aho kotoa pē 'i he taimí! Kamata e akó 'i he 8:35 pongipongí.

E taua le auai i le aoga i le 8:35 ma tepana lelei ai mo le aso.



## Study News

### **Compulsory Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy Further Assessment Opportunities (FAOs)**

Kia ora e te whānau,

Students in Year 11 that have not completed their Numeracy corequisite and / or currently have zero Level 1 Literacy credits, and students in Year 12 that have not completed their Numeracy and / or Level 1 Literacy corequisites, **are required to attend Further Assessment Opportunities (FAOs). FAOs start in week 6 of this term (Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November).**

Students have been given all the necessary information at school, and text and email notifications will be sent home in due course.

FAOs are a **one-time opportunity** and **not negotiable**. Attendance is essential.

The literacy FAO provides the opportunity to achieve **5 of the 10 required Level 1 Literacy credits**. To be clear, **this FAO alone does not complete the Year 11 L1 Literacy corequisite**. Students still need to gain **the remaining 5 Level 1 Literacy credits through their upcoming externals** (English, Commerce and Geography which each have 5 Level 1 Literacy credits).

🎓 A reminder: Students cannot achieve NCEA without completing their Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy corequisites. Our teachers are working hard to provide these extra chances to ensure every student can progress successfully.

📍 To support your child, please ensure they:

- Speak to their whānau teacher
- Know where they need to be and when
- Attend school every day, on time.
- Give their best effort

**Please do not make any plans that would require your child to be out of school during their FAOs or externals.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Mrs Christensen [mchristensen@otahuhucollege.school.nz](mailto:mchristensen@otahuhucollege.school.nz)
- Or your child's dean:
- Y12 Mr Martin [amartin@otahuhucollege.school.nz](mailto:amartin@otahuhucollege.school.nz)
- Y11 Ms Norgate [enorgate@otahuhucollege.school.nz](mailto:enorgate@otahuhucollege.school.nz)



Thank you for working with us to ensure your child has the best chance of succeeding.

Ngā mihi nui,

Melinda Christensen.

## **EXTERNALS**

It is important that students prepare and perform well in their externals because:

- Year 11 students are aiming to **complete their Level 1 Literacy corequisite by passing their English, Commerce, Geography external(s)** (5 Level 1 Literacy credits each).
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- Year 11 **History** external is a pathway to all-important **UE Writing credits** needed for **University Entrance**
- Year 12 and Year 13 **externals** are a pathway to all-important **UE Literacy credits** needed for **University Entrance**
- Year 12 and Year 13 students unable to earn 60 Level 2 or Level 3 credits internally, must gain the remainder from externals.
- To earn a **subject endorsement**, students need 14 credits in one subject, including **3 from an external**. For an Excellence endorsement, all 14 credits must be at Excellence; for a Merit endorsement, all 14 must be at Merit or higher.
- **Exam performance** tells universities and employers that students: have **discipline** and are not afraid of hard work, can **adapt** to challenging situations, and are **independent** and don't need to be "spoon-fed", which are skills needed by every workplace and every profession.
- To see the 2025 NCEA externals timetable, copy and paste the following link into your browser:  
<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/NCEA/2025-Exam-Timetable.pdf>



## Community News

### Important information for parents, caregivers and our community

- Measles is circulating and is very contagious. There is now measles in Northland, Auckland, Manawatu, Nelson and Wellington, and we expect further cases across New Zealand.
- Watch out for symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, and a blotchy rash:  
Measles – Health New Zealand
- Anyone with measles symptoms must stay at home and should seek urgent advice by ringing their doctor or Healthline on 0800 611 116.
- Anyone who is closely exposed to a measles case must stay at home. Health New Zealand will provide individuals with advice on a case-by-case basis (including when they can leave quarantine at home).
- Health New Zealand is actively working with the schools that currently have measles cases.
- People are considered immune to measles after having two doses of a measles vaccine from 12 months or older, or if you have had measles before. For more information on measles immunity visit:  
Measles immunity – Health New Zealand
- Encourage families and whānau to check their own and their child/childrens' immunisation status through My Health Record:  
My Health Record – Health New Zealand
- Anyone born between 1969 and 2004 may have only received one vaccine dose and might not be fully protected. It's safe to get extra doses. A free vaccine can be booked online or via the Vaccination Helpline on 0800 28 29 26. [Book my vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)

## Pathway to Careers



AUT are now into the recruitment phase of the SOTP programme. Please see the advertisement attached along with this email link - that provides more information and steps in how to apply:

<https://www.aut.ac.nz/.../schools-onsite-teacher...>

Key Date: 14 November EOI closes [This can be extended if places are not filled]

### The Tagaloa scholarships

These scholarships are available for Pacific students in their final year of postgraduate tertiary study, offering support for:

- 1 x Master's Student: \$10,000
- 1 x Doctoral Student: \$14,000

Applications are open now and will close on Friday, November 28, 2025.

For full details on eligibility criteria and to apply, please visit the

[Tagaloa Scholarships page - Ministry of Education.](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at [Tagaloa.Scholarship@education.govt.nz](mailto:Tagaloa.Scholarship@education.govt.nz).





## **Fakailoga Tino Professional development for schools**

PLD to name, negotiate and navigate racism. If as a Principal or Board member you are interested in this , please email [talanoa.ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:talanoa.ako@education.govt.nz)



### Fakailoga Tino

A professional development programme to build the capability of principals, teachers, BOTs and senior leaderships to use Pacific-led research to confidently support Pacific learners through culturally responsive teaching. The programme helps to strengthen Pacific cultural capability in school leadership and teaching. This programme supports participants to name, negotiate and navigate barriers to education and inequalities to build sector capability to respond to Pacific learners and their families.

The programme is delivered by Polynesian Panther and Vasa Consultancy over 12 sessions providing teachers with a thorough understanding of:

- Pacific migration to Aotearoa
- Tangata Whenua relationships
- System barriers
- Tools for how teachers can be cultural disruptors

Fakailoga Tino has successfully been piloted in seven schools and is now offered to 11 schools through 2025-2027.

Register your interest for the Fakailoga Tino programme to: [Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz)

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### Talanoa Ako

Register your interest for the Fakailoga Tino programme to [Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz).

## **Talanoa Ako: Pacific talk about Educational and Learning (TA:PTEL) professional Development for Schools.**

PLD which unpacks the TA:PTEL resources of best practice for Pacific achievement. If as a principal or board member you are interested in this, please email [talanoa.ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:talanoa.ako@education.govt.nz)



## Pacific talk about Education and Learning

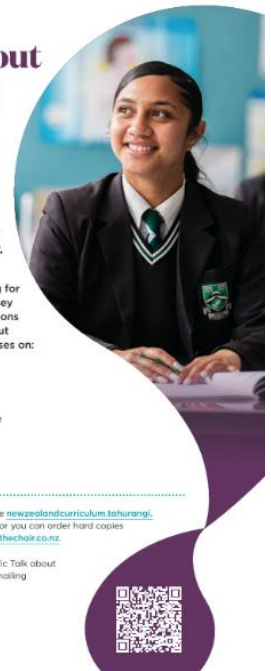
A unique Professional Learning Development (PLD) programme tailored for teachers, boards and principals across Aotearoa New Zealand which support schools to strengthen their Pacific capability.

Pacific talk about Education and Learning for teachers is delivered by Tātai Angitu Massey University and CrossPolynote over 12 sessions utilising the Talanoa Ako: Pacific talk about Education and Learning resources. It focuses on:

- › reflective teaching practices
- › privileging Pacific voice
- › success factors and barriers
- › achievement from a Pacific centric base
- › evidence base
- › a community of learning
- › the Action Plan for Pacific Education.

Talanoa Ako: Tāhūrangi - NZ Curriculum website [newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/talanoa-ako/5637167086.p](http://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/talanoa-ako/5637167086.p) or you can order hard copies through Down the Back of the Chair by visiting [thechair.co.nz](http://thechair.co.nz)

Register your interest for the Talanoa Ako: Pacific Talk about Education and Learning, PLD programme by emailing [Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz)





OTAHUHU COLLEGE



YOUTH HEALTH COUNCIL

## "YOUR WELLBEING, OUR MISSION"

We're on the lookout for junior students who want to be leaders in wellbeing! Join our Youth Health Council and help create cool ideas and events that support our school's mental health and happiness.

WHEN: Tuesday 4th November

TIME: Whanau time

WHERE: the 'old' Whare beside  
B-Block that faces out to the  
Tree and Courts

### What to Expect

- Be part of a fun and supportive team
- Plan and lead wellbeing projects for the school
- Learn leadership and teamwork skills
- Share your ideas to make a real difference
- Build confidence in speaking and presenting
- Join special events and workshops
- Make new friends and have fun while helping others



## Sports News

### **Otago College Celebrates Sporting Excellence at Annual Awards Evening**

Otago College proudly hosted another successful Sports Awards Evening in the school hall, celebrating the outstanding achievements of its student athletes. The event drew an impressive crowd, with more than 200 parents, students, and staff in attendance to honour the sporting talent and dedication within the college community.

A highlight of the evening was guest speaker **Dame Valerie Adams**, who delivered an inspiring message about perseverance, discipline, and the power of sport to shape character and success. Her words resonated strongly with students and guests alike, leaving a lasting impact.

The College extends a heartfelt thank you to Mr Tamati and Ms Robati for their exceptional organisation of the event, as well as to the staff and students whose hard work ensured the evening ran smoothly. Appreciation is also extended to **8 Roses Catering** for providing the delicious food that contributed to the warm and celebratory atmosphere.

The Sports Awards Evening was a true reflection of Otago College's pride in its athletes and commitment to nurturing excellence both on and off the field.





## 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 sport, they also need to be showing up and putting 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.

## SPORTS FEES 2026

Sports fees will be introduced in 2026 and will need to be paid by students who participate in school sports prior to the season beginning.