



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026

Important Notices

Monday 26 th January	Auckland Anniversary (No school)
Tuesday 27 th January	Yr 9 and Yr 13 start back
Wednesday 28 th January	All Year Levels start back



From Our Principal

Welcome back to Otahuhu College and the start of the 2026 academic year. I hope you have all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas, and have had valuable time to spend with family. With that said it has been great to see our students this week during course confirmation and meet some of our new families during the enrolment process.

Our NCEA results are out and congratulations to the many students who have done well. Some highlights are:

- Best ever University Entrance Rate*
- For the ninth year in a row our Level Three pass rate is above the national average for all schools.*
- Our Level Two pass rate was above the national average for all schools.*
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As always there are areas where we need to improve and we will be working hard to do this, so that your children get the best possible opportunities and choices when they leave Otahuhu College at the end of Year 13.

We are looking forward to welcoming new students to Otahuhu College on Tuesday, as well as the new staff. I look forward to seeing you throughout the year, and working together to achieve the best possible future for the children you have entrusted in our care.

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

Regular attendance means attending school at least ninety percent of the time.

Like other top schools we expect all our students to be at school on time each day. Students should be at school by 8:30am and it is their responsibility to be seated in the correct places for assembly. Your support in making sure your child is at school on time is appreciated.

If your child is going to be late or absent please phone the office 9634000 to leave a message on the absence voice mail before 8:00 a.m. You can also email attendance@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Each day a text message is sent out to families when their child has been marked absent up until 10am. Please reply to this text letting us know where your child is.

There will be times when your child may be absent and for whatever reason the school has not been informed, in this case a note needs to be brought the first day back and given to the whanau teacher





Otago College Behaviour and Discipline Policy: Key Highlights

At Otago 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 Otago College.

Cell Phones Not to be Used Between 8:30am and 3pm

Government regulations require that schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time 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 bag 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

Uniform

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 Otahuhu College.

The uniform is available at NZ Uniforms in Penrose and also available online: <http://otahuhucollege.nzuniforms.com/catalog/school-uniform-1103685.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 Otahuhu 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.

Uniform: Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get the College uniform from?

The uniform is available at NZ Uniforms in Penrose and also available online: <http://otahuhucollege.nzuniforms.com/catalog/school-uniform-1103685.htm>

Can my child wear jandals?

No, due to Health and safety reasons students need to wear enclosed shoes.

Is it OK to wear a hoodie underneath the school jacket?

No, a hoodie, even if one with Otago College branding, is not part of the school uniform.

What happens when students turn up in non- uniform clothes?

Non uniform items get confiscated, unless first the student has got a note from their Dean at the start of the day.

Can my child wear a t shirt at lunchtime to play sports?

Yes, a plain white t shirt or the PE uniform may be worn if actively playing sport at lunchtime or break.

Is help available?

Yes, if families are struggling with the uniform requirements, then contact the Dean or Deputy Principal.

My child has been selected for a sports tournament, what should they wear?

When representing the school students should either be in full uniform, or wearing a College tracksuit (the College can lend when needed).



Sports News

Otago College Sports – 2026

Welcome back to Otago College Sports for 2026.

This year, we are introducing a **compulsory Sports Fee** for all students participating in school sports. The fee is **\$20.00 for the year** and must be paid **prior to the start of competition**.

This is a **one-off annual fee**, and once paid, students may participate in **as many sports as they wish** throughout the year.

We appreciate your continued support of Otago College Sport and look forward to another successful sporting year in 2026.

Students get taste of life at university

■ STEVE HEPBURN

MORE than 400 secondary school students are dipping their toes into university life this week in Dunedin.

The Hands-On at Otago week-long event is taking place in the halls of the University of Otago with the campus having classes in many different subjects.

The 403 pupils come from 203 secondary schools around the country.

The programme gives those in year 12 and year 13 this year a glimpse of student life in Dunedin.

The students stay at residential college Te Rangihirua, soaking up the atmosphere in the large hall.

A wide range of university departments and schools are involved in the programme and students get to try out everything from dissection, creating stone tools and chocolate making to building a radio antenna and



Brian was featured on the second page of the Otago Daily Times last week, highlighting his experience at Hands-on at Otago.

A huge shout-out to Brian for representing our school so positively. He attended the summer camp alongside two other dedicated students, Kristian Lai and Jasmeen Kaur, who also embraced the opportunity.

See link below for full story

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/students-get-taste-life-university>