



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Thursday 5th February 2026

Important Dates

Friday 6 th February	Waitangi Day (No school)
Monday 16 th February	Haka-Waiata Competition
Wednesday 18 th February	Head Prefect Speeches/Voting
Thursday 19 th February	Sports Day



From Our Principal

The first two weeks of school have started well and students are working hard in class and are also preparing strongly for our Haka Waiata competition, Auckland's longest running school Haka Waiata competition.

The start of the school year is a good opportunity to explain the difference between Achieved, Merit and Excellence grades. Getting higher grades is not just a matter of getting more things right, though that does help. The key is the level of thinking which is demonstrated. There are some differences between subjects, however in general, an Achieved grade means that you can describe the topic. To get a Merit you need to be able to explain, looking at reasons why something happens. While to get an Excellence you need to be able analyse, make comparisons and draw links between different topics. One way of looking at it is if you can describe what a family member looks and acts like you get an achieved, if you can explain why they act that way then it's a Merit, and if you can show how their actions affect the family and how the wider family responds then that is an Excellence. All our students should be working towards Merits or Excellences in their subjects.

Over the next few days students will have the opportunity to sign up for the many sporting, cultural and club-based activities which we have at Otahuhu College. Every student needs to be involved in activities both during the summer and winter terms.

Enjoy the long weekend.

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 peé '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.

Our Commitments

Each week our students receive an engagement grade based on a 1 to 5 scale. To get a 5, students need to attempt all classwork and homework, and consistently strive to produce work at or above the level expected from this pupil as indicated by past academic results. You can help by encouraging your child to do homework work, and independent study. Encourage your child to always participate in class discussions, by volunteering to ask and answer questions.





After school – Front gates

The school front gates will remain closed for all vehicles between 3:00pm and 3:15pm each afternoon to allow students to exit the grounds safely. For safety reasons, we would prefer Parents/caregivers to park on Golf Ave if they are picking up their children after school.

Study News



Year 11 has made an excellent start to the year—congratulations to all students!

We have been impressed with the strong focus on learning shown across the cohort this week. During our Year Level Assembly, we outlined the key goals for 2026:

- Achieving **Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy**
- Maintaining at least **80% attendance**
- Earning a minimum **engagement grade of 3**

Teachers have now begun setting weekly homework to support students in meeting these expectations. Completing this work on time is an important part of helping our ākonga build good learning habits and work steadily toward their goals.

After school Y11 Dean's detentions

These will be issued to Y11 for the following:

1. Truancy of any timetabled class/session
2. Use of mobile phone/device during the hours of 8:30am – 3pm
3. Repeated non-compliance with school uniform
4. Repeated failure to attend school with a school bag and appropriate resources.



Junior School (Year 9-10)

It has been a positive start to the year for our junior students. Year 9s, in particular, have been settling into routines, building relationships with teachers and peers, and learning what it means to be a secondary school student at Ōtāhuhu College. We are pleased with how students are adjusting to the expectations of high school and appreciate the support whānau have provided during this important transition period. We welcome our new student's, and their Whanau to our school community.

One of the most effective ways junior students can build confidence, develop a sense of belonging, and connect with others at school is through involvement in extra-curricular activities.

Below is a list of whole school extracurricular activities currently available to students.

Activity	When	Where	Teacher in Charge
Photography Club	Tuesday – Break 2	M27	Ms. Corin
Art Club	Thursday 3:00–4:00pm	M27	Ms. Corin
Crochet Club	Tuesday & Thursday 3:00–4:00pm	A16	Ms. Thomason
Mathex	Wednesday 3:00–4:00pm	A18	Ms. Channer
Robotics	Tuesday 3:05–4:00pm	M10	Mr. Morales
Duke of Edinburgh	TBC (more information to follow)	TBC	Ms. Bulteel
Refugee Background Learners Homework Club	Thursday 3:00–4:00pm	Library	Ms. Blackman
Diversity Group	Friday – Break 2	Library	Ms. Blackman
English Language Workshops	Tuesday 3:00–4:00pm	M2	Ms. Blackman
Math Study Support	3:00–4:30pm	Library	The Math Teachers



Sports News

Ōtāhuhu Pool & Leisure Centre

LEVEL UP NETBALL WITH ASHLEY TONGA

STARTS
MONDAY
16TH
FEBRUARY

4.30PM
FOR
1 HOUR

AGES:
11-18YEARS

WHERE:
ŌTĀHUHU
POOL &
LEISURE
CENTRE



FREE

HOOPS WITH HER

6 WEEK PROGRAMME



SOUTH



17, 24 FEB
3, 10, 17, 24 MAR

TUESDAYS, 5-7PM

Age Groups: U9, U12, U15, U18

FREE!

Contact: Amanda@auckland.basketball

Location Pulman Arena





Stationary

Please note the book shop returns back to Normal Hours from next week.
The hours are as follows.

9th February – 13th February	8.30am – 1.30pm	(Monday to Friday)
16th February onwards	8.30am – 1.30pm	(Monday to Thursday only)