



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 13th March 2026

Important Dates

Monday 16th March	Polyfest Groups All Day Practices (various venues)
Tuesday 17th March	Fia Fia Concert (school will finish at 12.45pm) Samoan Group Fia Fia evening
Thursday 19th March	School ID Photos Samoan Group Performs at Poyfest (12pm) Tongan Group Fia Fia (evening)
Friday 20th March	Cook Island Group Performs at Polyfest (2.50pm)
Saturday 21st March	Fijian Group performs at Polyfest (9am) Filipino Group Performs at Polyfest (9.20am) Tongan Group Performs at Polyfest (10.50am and 1.50pm)



From Our Principal

The week started with an acknowledgement of the success of our volleyball teams, all finishing in the top three of their grades, and we wish our seniors all the best for the North Island Championships. The Otahuhu Fun Day was a great success and thanks to all the students and staff who supported this venture. We do want to increase the number of students participating in extra-curricular activities. It is vital that students taking part are also completing their academic studies. The following is our attendance policy regarding extra-curricular participation:

Students who are less than 80% attendance will not be able to participate in extra curricular activities:

- a. Only when students have maintained regular attendance (90%) for the four weeks preceding the finalisation of the team/activity group may the principal consider a dispensation.*
- b. For students granted a dispensation they must maintain regular attendance to continue to participate.*
- c. If a student who was granted a dispensation, attendance improves to over 70% then they are no longer chronically absent.*

It is important that all families are aware of this and work with their children so that they do not miss out.

Our Commitments

Our commitment next week is to be supportive. We must all be aware that we don't know what's going on in the lives of those we pass and, more than anything else, no matter where they may be, a smile and greeting is much better engagement than to look away or at the pavement with detachment. We reap what we sow. Therefore, if we want our day to be filled with enthusiasm, logically we should be enthusiastic. If we want our day to be joyful, then we must reflect just that. This references, of course, our inner state of mind and how we choose to present ourselves to the world – something that we completely control. We encourage each other here at Otahuhu College to greet and acknowledge each other with interest, putting in mind the needs of the other rather than oneself. It is good to remember when we help others, we help ourselves.

Attendance

Every absence matters, and providing a note explaining why your child missed school is an important step in supporting their learning. Whether the absence is due to illness, family commitments, or unforeseen circumstances, informing the school ensures transparency and allows us to address any underlying barriers.

At Otahuhu College, our whānau teachers and attendance staff are here to assist families. Let's keep the lines of communication open to promote consistent attendance.

Fiema'u ke fakamatala'i ke mahino 'a e 'uhinga na'e nofo ai ho'o tamá 'i he akó.

Faafeso'ota'i le aoga e faailoa le mafua'aga ua le alu ai i le aoga.



2026 ASB Polyfest – Monday 16th March to Saturday 21st March

Otago College has a rich and proud tradition of performing at the Polyfest. This year we have 8 groups performing. Good luck to all students, staff, tutors, and families involved!

The schedule for the week is as follows:

Monday 16th March: All Day Practices 9am to 3pm at the following venues:

Group	Venue
Kapa Haka	Te Tāhuhu (School Whare)
Samoan	Otago Intermediate
Filipino	Otago Primary
Tongan	Massey Road Tongan Church
Fijian	Otago Town Hall (Youth Space)
Indian	Otago College Pavilion
Cook Island	Fairburn Primary

Tuesday 17th March:

Fia Fia Concert (School Hall 1:30pm start)

Samoan Fa'aliga (School Hall 6:00pm to 8:00pm)

Wednesday 18th March: Polyfest Opens (Manukau Velodrome)

Thursday 19th March:

Samoan Group Performance at Polyfest 12:00pm

Tongan Fia Fia (School Hall 6:00pm to 10:00pm)

Friday 20th March:

Cook Island Group Performance at Polyfest 2:50pm

Saturday 21st March:

Fijian Group Performance at Polyfest 9:00am

Filipino Group Performance at Polyfest 9:20am

Tongan Group Performance at Polyfest 10:50am

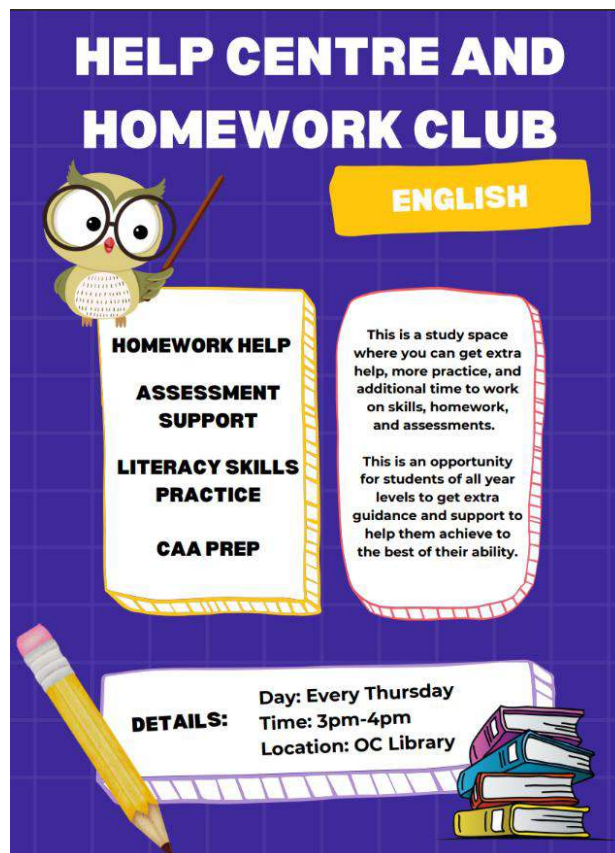
Tongan Group Performance at Polyfest 1:50pm

Note: Kapa Haka Group Performance is on Tuesday 31st March, 1:30pm at the Due Drop Events Centre Manukau.



Study News

English Help Centre



HELP CENTRE AND HOMEWORK CLUB

ENGLISH

HOMework HELP

- ASSESSMENT SUPPORT**
- LITERACY SKILLS PRACTICE**
- CAA PREP**

This is a study space where you can get extra help, more practice, and additional time to work on skills, homework, and assessments.

This is an opportunity for students of all year levels to get extra guidance and support to help them achieve to the best of their ability.

DETAILS: Day: Every Thursday
Time: 3pm-4pm
Location: OC Library



Mapping Your Academic Journey

At Ōtāhuhu College, we want every student to have a clear picture of their NCEA pathway and what it takes to achieve their NCEA qualifications. To help with this, students are encouraged to reflect on three key questions about their academic tracking:

1. Where am I?

This is about understanding your current status. Take a look at your corequisites and the number of credits you have achieved so far. Knowing exactly where you are is the first step in planning where you want to go.

2. Where am I going?

Set your academic goals for the year and beyond. The college has minimum academic expectations for each year level:

- Year 11: Complete both corequisites (level 1 literacy and numeracy)
- Year 12: Achieve NCEA Level 2 and achieve or make progress towards UE Literacy
- Year 13: Achieve NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance

These minimum expectations give students a clear benchmark and help guide decisions about courses and study priorities.

3. How am I going to get there?

Check out the attached NCEA Assessment Schedules for your courses. These outline the assessments you need to complete to gain credits, along with their due dates or assessment periods. Use these schedules to plan your work, manage your time, and track your progress.

Reflecting on these three questions helps students take ownership of their progress towards their NCEA qualifications, stay on track, and make informed choices about their study habits and goals. By understanding where you are, knowing the college's expectations for your year, and having a plan to get there, you are putting yourself in the best position for success.

Click on the links below for Ōtāhuhu College NCEA Assessment Schedules:

[2026 NCEA Assessments Schedule Year 11.pdf](#)

[2026 NCEA Assessments Schedule Year 12.pdf](#)

[2026 NCEA Assessments Schedule Year 13.pdf](#)

Please see the Study Support Timetable attached below. This shows the times when teachers are available to give extra support to students.

These sessions are a great opportunity for students who:

- need support with their learning
- want to ask questions
- need more time to understand their work





During these times, teachers provide supervised small group support. This means students can work in a quiet space and get support directly from their teachers.

We encourage students to attend when they need support. These sessions help students stay on track.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning.

[2026 Term 1 Study Support Timetable.pdf](#)

Ngā mihi nui, Melinda Christensen, Academic Navigator, Senior School.

Sports News

Sports Fee

\$20 sports fee for all students participating in school sports. In previous years, we were fortunate to receive funding that covered many expenses, including transport, uniforms, entry fees, laundry, and new sports gear. Unfortunately, that funding is no longer available, so we need to implement this fee to help cover these costs.

The \$20 fee is a one-time payment, allowing students to participate in as many sports as they choose throughout the year. This contribution will go towards all expenses related to school sports, ensuring we can continue offering a variety of athletic opportunities for our students. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support as we work to maintain a strong sports program. Thank you for helping us keep sports accessible and enjoyable for our students.

Sports fees can be paid to the student centre, or you can pay online

Otago College
ASB - 12-3018-0190563-00

****Please put the students name as reference, and put the Particulars as sports****

Library News

“Tell Your Story” Launches at Ōtāhuhu College

Ōtāhuhu College is proud to launch “Tell Your Story”, a literacy-focused creative storytelling programme delivered in partnership with Ōtāhuhu Library.

Annie and Oliver from the library visited our school to introduce this exciting initiative, encouraging students to explore storytelling in a format that best suits them. While writing remains at the heart of the programme, students are also invited to express their ideas through photography, podcasting, or any other creative medium that helps bring their story to life.

Running from March to June, the programme supports students to strengthen their literacy skills while developing confidence, creativity, and voice. It will culminate in a Gala Night, where students from Ōtāhuhu College and neighbouring high schools will come together to celebrate and showcase their stories.

A wonderful opportunity for our young people to grow as storytellers and connect with their community.





Photo ID Cards

Ōtāhuhu College Photo ID cards

ID cards are pre-paid at Student Services in the Book Shop. Cost for ID cards is \$15.00.

We recommend buying an ID card for getting student rates for the bus and train etc. It can be used for proof of identity, especially when applying for jobs and drivers licence tests and other discounts for students.

The ID card order is placed once the school photos have been taken on 19 March . The production of ID cards can take a few days as they are created by an offsite company.

The whanau teachers will be notified when the card is ready to be collected.

Community News

Otahuhu Family Fun Day

Supporting our local community took centre stage at this year's Otahuhu Family Fun Day, where our students proudly rolled up their sleeves and led a full day of kai and connection. From sausage sizzles to hamburgers and even shrimps on a stick, everything was prepared, cooked, and served by our students.

What made the day truly special was that it was entirely student led. They organised the setup, managed the cooking stations, kept the lines moving, and served families with genuine warmth. It wasn't just about food — it was about service, teamwork, and representing Otahuhu College with pride.

The experience gave our students a meaningful opportunity to give back while learning the value of community engagement. Their energy, leadership, and willingness to serve made the event a memorable success and a great reminder of the power of young people working together for others.

A massive thank you to the amazing team at Kindness Collective who generously sponsored this event.

