



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 20th March 2026

Important Dates

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)
Tuesday 31st March	2.30pm - Kapa Haka performance (Duedrop Centre)
Thursday 2nd April	Last Day of school



From Our Principal

This week has been a busy week, with cultural groups putting the finishing touches together for Polyfest, numerous performances for family and our community, and of course all culminates in the world's biggest cultural festival. So much time and pride is put into this event and it a real credit to all those involved.

There are so many things we have to be proud of, and so many talented and hardworking families who sacrifice a lot so that their children can have a brighter future. Best of luck to all the groups who are performing over the next few days.

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 Otahuhu College. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the Principal.

Attendance

When students miss school, it's vital for parents to provide a written note explaining the absence. This ensures the school can record the absence accurately and identify any ongoing issues that might affect your child's ability to attend regularly.

At Otahuhu College, we encourage parents to notify the school as soon as possible, either by phone, email, or a handwritten note. Together, we can support students to overcome barriers to attendance and ensure they don't fall behind.

'Oku mahu'inga ke faka-fetu'utaki mai ki he 'apiakó 'a e 'uhinga 'oku 'ikai ma'u ako ai 'a e fānaú.

O le tusi o faamatalaga e fesoasoani i le aoga e fesoasoani ai i le fanau.

Study News

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.docx](#)

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

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

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 and feel more confident with their learning.

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

Thank you for supporting your child's learning.

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

Junior School (Year 9-10)

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





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****

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.



Health Centre

The nurses will start to catch up with all the Year 9 students for a general mini health check. This is part of the school nurse contract in all the health funded schools throughout NZ and happens throughout the year. The nurses ask the students about their health and wellbeing.

If you do not want your child to have this Year 9 check just ring and let us know. Likewise, let us know if you want your child's health checked urgently or if your child has health issues you want to discuss privately with the nurses. 7 Friday 1st March 2024 All the year 9 students had their hearing checked and next term the Auckland University vision screening team will come and check all the Year 9's eyesight. The optometrists then come back with their van to check, with parents' consent, all the students who failed their vision test. Students can choose their glasses at school, and they are free. We will pass on more information closer to the time. Health Centre Ph 09 9634081

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Community News

Samoan Group 2026

After weeks and countless hours of preparation, everything came down to a flawless 20-minute display of precision and pride. On Thursday at 12.30pm, the Samoan group took centre stage and delivered their absolute best, leaving behind a performance they can stand tall in.

Norris Selesele (fuataimi) commanded the stage with confidence and power during the ‘pese’, leaving the crowd buzzing and wanting more. Sorenson Muavaa (fa’aluma) ignited the atmosphere with his explosive energy in the ‘sāsā’, while Metanoia Falevaai (taupou) brought the performance to a stunning close with her graceful and captivating siva Samoa. Congratulations to all the students who proudly represented the Samoan group. Fa’afetai lava to all the parents and aiga who came out to support our Fiafia Night — your presence means everything to us.

A special acknowledgement to our talented team of tutors — all proud former students. Fa’afetai Itagia Vaoga, Irah Tuimaseve, Luiz Seetai, Steven Uatisone, Paul Uatisone, and Vaiea Luaiva for the countless hours, unwavering commitment, and dedication you poured into creating an outstanding set for our students. And a special mention to the leader of the group, Ms Wickman, along with the dedicated staff — Mrs Stretton, Mrs Tuialii, Miss Toaleafoa, Mrs Clarken, Ms Ellis-Smith, Mr Usufono, and Mr Hart — for your unwavering support throughout the entire preparation period.



