



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 06th March 2026

Important Dates

Saturday 7th March	Otago Community Fun Day
18th – 21st March	ASB Polyfest (Pasifika and Diversity Stage)
19th March	School ID Photos taken
30th March – 02nd April	ASB Polyfest (Maori Stage)



From Our Principal

This week has been a busy week for all our students involved in Polyfest, and it is great to see their commitment to working hard and challenging themselves both individually and collectively to perform at the highest level possible. As always we are very grateful for the support of families, tutors and staff who make these groups possible.

If you want to learn a language, you must hear it spoken. And if you want to speak it fluently, you must practise speaking aloud. Similarly, if you want to improve as a public speaker, you can read about great speeches, but eventually you must step onto the stage. If you want to learn to surf, you must get into the water. Likewise, one of the biggest mistakes students make when preparing for examinations is focusing on the content they know best. Why? Because it feels comfortable and gives the illusion of progress. In reality, what you should be studying is the material you don't know well, but it is the harder and more uncomfortable. In addition, to truly learn and grow proficient in any skill, you must be willing to make mistakes, willing to push through embarrassment and embrace the discomfort that comes with imperfection. Learning is often described as the process of recognising, correcting, and preventing mistakes. Yet, as any surfer knows, if you're not wiping out every now and then, you're not pushing yourself far enough, and your progress will plateau.

One of learning's great ironies is that comfort is often the reward of mastery. However, the process of getting there is anything but comfortable.

Our Commitments

For our students to be engaged in their own education, they must be encouraged to read, ask questions, actively engage in discussions, write and learn to think critically about challenging material. Every mistake our students make, every question they ask, and every time they successfully struggle with a concept, their brain grows a little bit stronger and smarter.

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 Otago 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.



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, 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](#)

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Junior School (Year 9-10)

In Junior School, students are learning how to manage a new level of independence, as they must organize their learning and adjust to the expectations of different subjects and teachers. To support this, our school day follows a clear structure, starting with the first bell at 8.35am and the last bell at 3pm. Routines help students understand what is expected of them and allow them to focus on their learning with confidence.

For many students, having some level of routine outside of school can also help make the transition into the school day smoother. Simple things such as arriving on time, being prepared for the day, having the right equipment, and getting enough rest can help students settle into learning more easily. Building these habits takes time and is a normal part of the learning process. Thank you to our families for the role you play in supporting your child as they develop these important habits during their first years of high school.



Getting to University

TE ITI KŌPARA



Year 12 Cohort



Year 11 Cohort

Last week, Monday was this years' official welcome to AUT for nominated taura who have become a part of an initiative that supports a pathway to university. Started in 2025 and targeting year 11, taura are given experiences of courses, degrees and career pathways available at university. This programme targets Māori and Pacifica taura as it has been recognized that there is a need to improve the retention rate for both cultures at university. The succession plan for this programme sees taura tracked, monitored and supported from year 11 through to year 13.

This year, Ōtāhuhu College was honoured to be asked, to nominate one of our taura Māori as kaikaranga, leading seven local secondary schools on to the AUT City Campus marae. I am so proud of Renae Ruffel-Kingi, a yr 12 taura, who pushed through personal comfort zones and represented our kura in this major event. This is an experience that will give her the confidence to lead tangata whenua and tangata manuhiri for many times to come.



Friday, saw our yr 11 cohort visit AUT South Campus mixing with other schools and getting a taste of Paramedicine, Oral Health and Midwifery. Definitely options for taura to consider. They will visit other AUT Campus throughout the year.





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.

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****

Community News

Otago College will be a part of the Otago Family Fun Day this year.

We are fortunate to be sponsored by Kindness Collective who have kindly donated towards our sausage sizzle and burger stand – which we are giving out for FREE!!! Mark your calendars for Saturday 7th March from 10am to 2pm.

It's a free event for the whole community.



The poster features a tropical background with palm trees and a sunset. At the top left is the word 'Otago' in a blue script font. To its right is the 'Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board' logo, which includes a stylized tree and waves, with 'Auckland Council' written below. The main title 'Free Otago Family Fun Day' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'Free' in red script, 'Otago' in blue block letters, 'Family' in large green block letters, and 'Fun Day' in blue script. Below the title, the date and location are listed: 'SATURDAY 7th March 10AM-2PM' and 'FAIRBURN RESERVE, MASON AVENUE'. The event details are listed in bold text: 'Children's Activities, Stall information and Entertainment', 'GAMES, ICE RINK & BOUNCY CASTLES', 'FREE FOOD, PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS', and 'STAGE ENTERTAINMENT, MC JOHN PULU'. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for sponsors: Otago College, Atwc, Auckland Council Libraries, The Fatimah Foundation, King's College, Mapu Māori, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Kindness Collective.