



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 17th April

Important Dates

Monday 20th April	First day of Term 2
Tuesday 21st April	NCEA Assessment Assemblies
Monday 27th April	ANZAC Day No school
Thursday 30th April	Parent/Teacher Meetings



From Our Principal

Welcome back to the second term, I hope the holidays have allowed for time to be spent with family.

The second term starts on Monday 20th April, with all students expected to be at school by 8:30am. This term our Year 12 to 13 students need to be aiming to gain 30 or more credits, and in most cases' these should be at the Merit or Excellence level, so settling into work and good routines of homework from Monday is important. For our Year 9 and 11 students they have exams to look forward to at the end of the term.

Thank for all your efforts in making sure your children attend regularly (90% or better).

Our Commitments

Our commitment for next week is to be on time. This means more than just being at school by 8:30am and moving quickly and quietly to class. Good time management is an important aspect of being successful.

For our students they need to know when their assignments are due to be handed in. A good idea is 3 days before the due date for your children to show you their assignments, this way you can check if they have finished, or need to work really hard to get the assignment finished by the due date.

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



Sport and Extra-Curricular Participation

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 80% then they can participate. It is important that all families are aware of this and work with their children so that they do not miss out.

Spectators:

Ōtāhuhu College celebrates the determination of our athletes and their families, who embody the true spirit of sport. Whether on the field or the sidelines, our community shines by prioritizing fun, friendship, and personal growth over mere competition. We encourage everyone to support our young players by applauding their effort, respecting all participants, and allowing them the freedom to showcase their skills. Your positive energy and encouragement are essential in creating an environment where every player feels valued and inspired to grow. Together, let's ensure that our sports programs remain a source of pride, joy, and lasting memories for all.

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.

Upholding Behaviour Standards at Otago College

Otago College is committed to fostering a safe and respectful learning environment. We remind students and families that physical violence, drug or alcohol use, or any association with related activities are serious breaches of our Behaviour and Discipline Policy. Such actions not only jeopardize the safety and well-being of our community but also put continued enrolment at risk.

Support is available to help students meet behaviour expectations, including access to our Health and Wellbeing Centre and programmes addressing anger management and substance education. However, repeated or severe breaches, such as fighting or involvement with drugs, will result in disciplinary actions, including stand-downs, suspensions, or referral to the Board of Trustees.

We urge our community to work together to maintain high standards and ensure Otago College remains a safe and inclusive space for all.



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 09) 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

Otago 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 Otago 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 Otago 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.