



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### Important Dates

May 18-29 <sup>th</sup>	CAAs (Common Assessment Activities) Digital Exams in T1 and T13
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Board Of Trustees meeting
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Kings birthday (School closed) Samoan language week
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mid Year Report Writing begins



## *From Our Principal*

This week has been an extremely busy week at Ōtāhuhu College. For our Year 10s and many of our senior students the CAAs have been sat, and we await eagerly the results. Winter sport season is well underway with some excellent results, and over the weekend the new qualification changes for 2028 were confirmed.

These new qualifications will be an increase in expectations across the country and most importantly help achieve greater consistency across schools, meaning that Otahuhu College students' grades will be viewed as being comparable to students in any school in New Zealand. With a greater focus on external exams, we do know that we must improve our teaching and develop a strong culture in the school of students studying throughout the year so they can get the best qualifications possible.

Our aim is that every student graduates from Ōtāhuhu College with University Entrance, that our sports teams, cultural groups, extra curricular activities are all amongst the best in Auckland. To achieve this takes an inordinate of effort and we are always grateful for your continued support.

## *Our commitments*

Our commitment is to be respectful. A key part of being respectful is using appropriate language. Learning what words, and indeed the volume, you use in different circumstances is one of the challenges of growing up into young men and women. Teenagers find this hard to do, so talking to them and explaining how different situations require the use of different words and mannerisms is a great step on developing articulate respectful young men and women.

## *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.



## *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.

## *Sports News*

### **PE AND HEALTH**

We have been fortunate to work alongside a New Zealand Olympic weightlifter, Olivia McFarland who has been supporting PE classes with a focus on the biomechanics of weightlifting. This has provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn from someone performing at the highest level, gaining deeper insights into technique, movement efficiency, and the science behind strength and power.

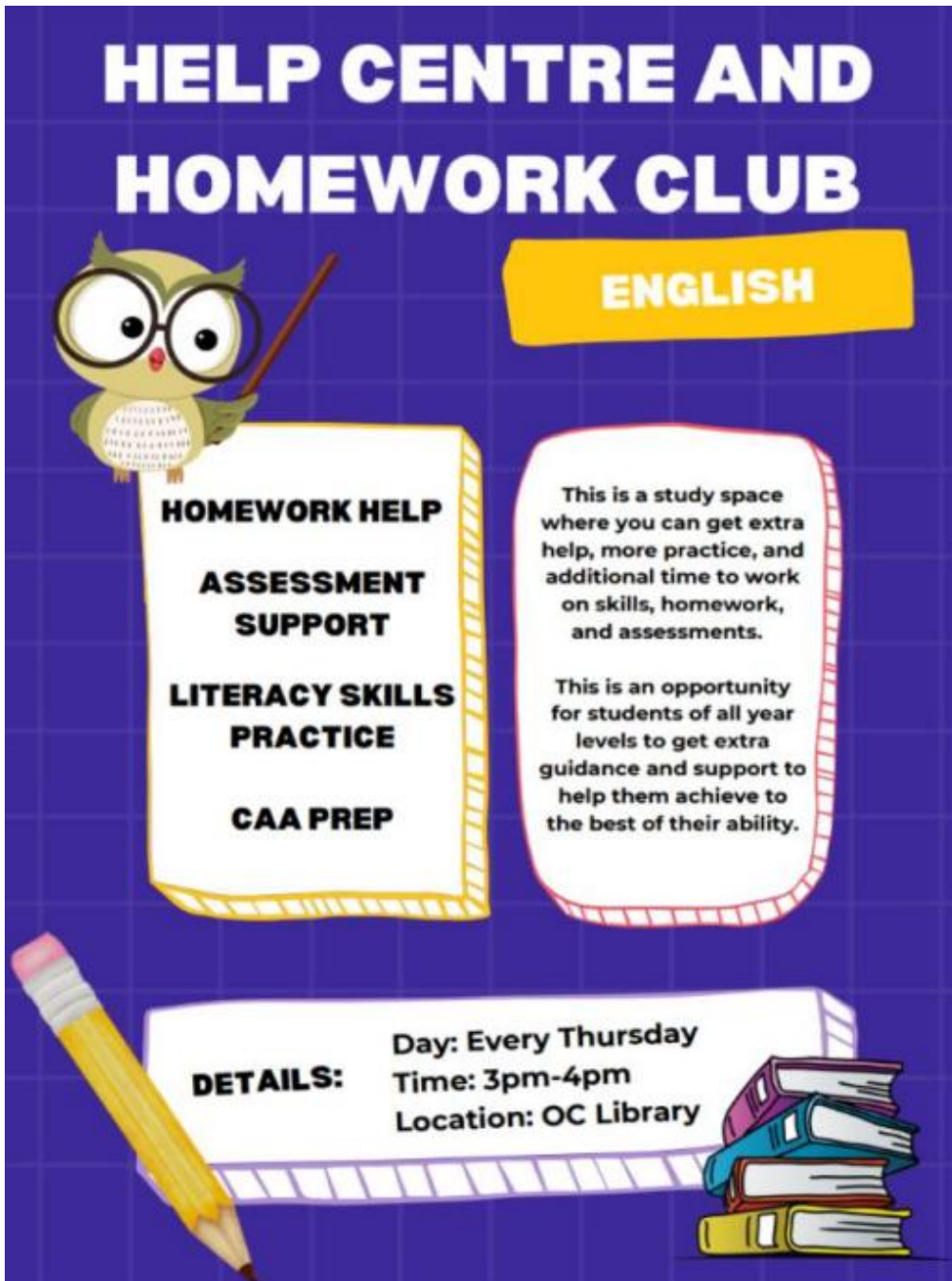
In addition to working with our senior students, a special “Have a Go” session was run in T7 at Break 2, which we saw a fantastic turnout- due to this we may have an after-school session. Students from across the school took the opportunity to get involved, try something new, and learn basic weightlifting skills in a supportive and engaging environment.

It has been great to see such enthusiasm, and we look forward to building on this interest with further opportunities for students to develop their strength and confidence in this area.



## Book room / Student Photo ID Cards

Cut off date to order Student ID Cards will be next week Thursday 28 May – Please have your order in before then.



**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

