



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 8th May

Important Dates

May 18-29th

CAAs (Common Assessment Activities)
Digital Exams in T1 and T13

May 28th

Board Of Trustees meeting

June 1st

Kings birthday
(School closed)
Samoan language week



From Our Principal

I was talking to an ex student who is now studying at the University of Auckland, they leave home at 8am to go by train into town. During the day they attend lectures and then in the evening they are studying in the library till 10pm, then they catch a train home. Saturday morning is also dedicated to study. The reason why is because they want to be a doctor. In becoming a doctor they will be able to help their community and support their family, and earn a lot of money, and to succeed takes a determination to work hard.

The winter sports season is starting and it was a pleasure to watch both our Netball teams play on Saturday. Thanks to all the parents and old students who have volunteered to help out in this important area.

Enrolments for next year are coming in at a steady rate. This year we have had to stop taking out of zone enrolments at various year levels, so it is important that all families and friends enrol as soon as possible to guarantee a place for next year.

Our Commitments

The behaviour focus for next week is on being supportive. This means more than just talking to our children about treating others like they would want to be treated. It also means being supportive in learning. School is, and should be challenging, the work must require thought, and mistakes have to be made if learning is to happen. A key part of being supportive at Otago College is based around supporting each other in our learning, making mistakes and working hard to do better next time.

Attendance

School starts promptly at 8:35 a.m., and being on time is essential for students to start their day on the right foot. Arriving late disrupts learning, both for the student and their classmates. At Otago College, we emphasize the importance of punctuality as a key life skill that prepares students for success in both academics and future employment.

Families can help by ensuring students leave home with enough time to arrive before 8:35 a.m. If lateness becomes a habit, we recommend reaching out to whānau teachers or attendance staff for advice and support. Let's work together to make every morning count.

‘Oku mahu’inga ke kamata e akó ‘i he taimí. Kamata ‘i he 8:35 pongipongi.
E amata le aoga i le 8:35 i le taeao. Ia iai i le a'oga a'o le'i amataina lesona.





Exercise Book Expectations

At Otago College, we believe it is important that every student takes pride in the presentation and overall organisation of their work. Student's classwork is an indication of their progress and our school values. We will check your exercise book regularly and will be clear about what work you need to improve. Student work is a record of learning and progress over time which demonstrates their attitude to learning in and out of school.

1. Make sure every piece of work has an underlined title and date.
2. Underline all headings with a ruler.
3. Write in blue or black pen.
4. Always draw with a pencil (tables, graphs and diagrams) and write with a pen.
5. Complete neat work at the front – rough work at the back of the exercise book.
6. Avoid graffiti and doodling on your books and folders. Do not rip out any pages.
7. Your exercise books must be available for every lesson.
8. Take pride in your work.

Updating Contact Details

Keeping Our Contact Details Up to Date

It is important that the school has current contact details for all families.

Up-to-date phone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts allow us to communicate quickly and effectively about important school information, student wellbeing matters, and emergencies.

If your contact details have changed at any time, please take a moment to update them with the school office. Your help ensures we can stay connected and support your child safely and efficiently

School office hours 8am – 3pm Monday to Friday
Phone number 09 963 4000





Study News

Important Information for Years 11, 12 and 13

CAAs

In Weeks 5 and 6 (May 18th – 29th) many students will take part in the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs). These are online assessments for Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Numeracy.

Students need to achieve these corequisite credits (10 Literacy credits and 10 Numeracy credits) as part of the requirements for achieving NCEA Level 2 and Level 3.

Many Year 11–13 students will sit one or more CAAs. Students’ parents | caregivers have been texted with the day their child is sitting, whānau teachers have told students, and there is a timetable below.

Please support your child by ensuring they are at school and on time to sit their CAAs.

Seniors CAA Timetable

Rooms T1 | T13

Period 1

Monday 18 th May	Tuesday 19 th May	Wednesday 20 th May	Thursday 21 st May	Friday 22 nd May
		Year 11 H1 and H2	Year 11 M1 & M2	Year 11 S1 & S2
Monday 25 th May	Tuesday 26 th May	Wednesday 27 th May	Thursday 28 th May	Friday 29 th May
Year 11 G1 & G2	Year 11 H11 & TTR2	Year 12	Year 13	

To support students, I have included three helpful links:

1. How to access past CAA assessments. These can help students become familiar with the format and try some practice questions. [How to Access Past CAA Tests for Practice.pdf](#)
2. Fun, everyday activities from the Ministry of Education that families can explore together. These activities build reading, writing, and numeracy skills in simple and practical ways. The upcoming weekend could be a great opportunity for students to try out past assessments and explore some of the fun learning activities at their own pace.
3. [Fun everyday activities for numeracy and literacy.pdf](#)



3. The term 2 study support timetable shows the times that teachers are available to give extra support to students. 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 2 Study Support Timetable.docx](#) 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

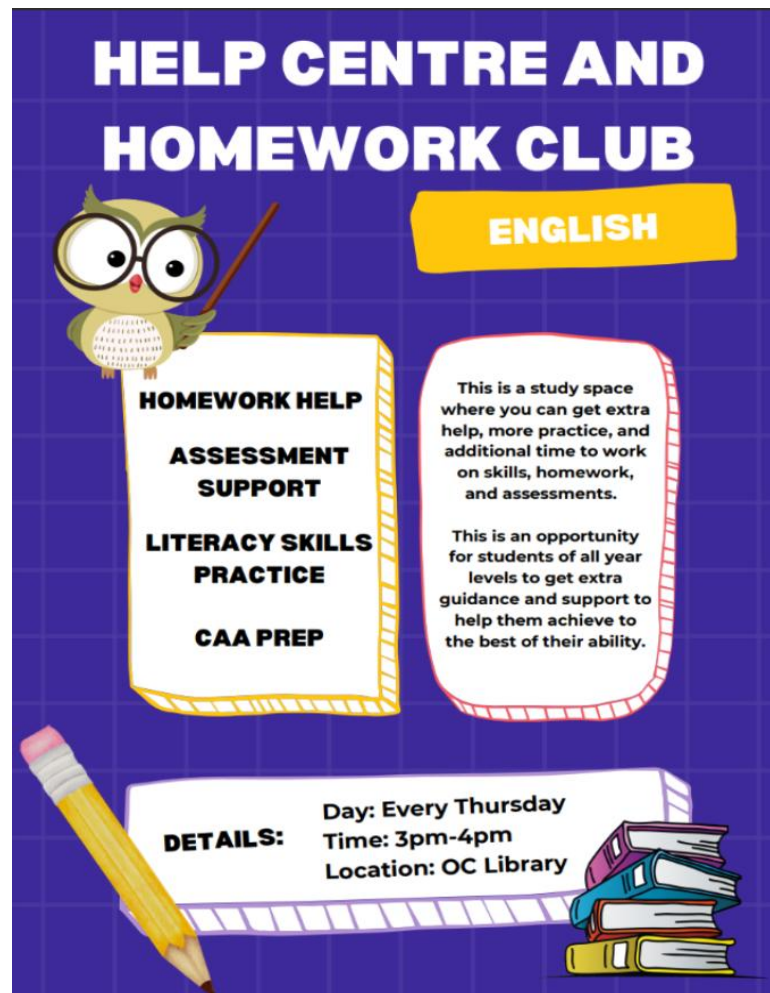
We are dedicated to supporting your children’s learning at school, and we truly appreciate your partnership and support as we work together.

Thank you.

Melinda Christensen | Academic Navigator – Senior School

email: mchristensen@otahuhucollege.school.nz

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

The poster features a cartoon owl with glasses and a pencil, a stack of books, and a yellow pencil.

Sports News

We are happy to have a new sport at Otago College. We have a Table Tennis team that played their first game of the season on Friday. In total, there were 6 singles matches. Each player played 2 singles and 1 doubles game, which gave everyone a fair and balanced opportunity to participate.

OC Team 2 had an excellent day and won all of their games. OC Team 1 also performed very well, losing only 3 singles matches and winning the rest of their games. Overall, it was a very positive and enjoyable competition for all students as we continue to grow the sport and the skills of our students.

