



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 19th June 2026

Important Dates

June 22 nd – June 26 th	Assessment Week
July 1 st – July 11 th	Japan Trip
July 3 rd	Last Day of Term 2



From Our Principal

Academically our results continue to improve with more students gaining Merit and Excellences than ever before. Our message to the students is that everyone should be able to gain Merits in their favourite subjects. Exams start next week. Sitting school Exams as a Year 9 and 10 student allows students to begin to develop successful routines around setting goals, exam preparation, exam behaviour and self-review.

These routines can then be refined to improve student performance in externals when they reach the Senior school. It has been great to walk around the school this week and see students engaging in the goal setting and preparation phase with all of their teachers. Good luck to all concerned.

Our Commitments

Our commitment next week is to be respectful. Being respectful includes being aware of the language we use both at school and to and from school. Swearing is not acceptable, and can often make situations worse than they need to be. A key to success is keeping calm under pressure. Students also demonstrate respect by the way they wear their uniforms, again this is both to and from school. The vast majority of students look well dressed as they come to school and thanks to all the families for your hard work which makes this possible. Just a reminder that our young men should be in school socks, or plain black socks.

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.

Uniform Expectations and Support

As we move through the remainder of Term 2 and into Term 3, we would like to remind families of our school uniform expectations and the support available should any difficulties arise.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 wear the junior school uniform. For females, this consists of the blue junior skirt and shirt with white socks and black covered shoes. For males, this consists of black trousers or shorts and our blue school shirt.

Only students in Years 12 and 13 are permitted to wear the senior uniform, which includes our white school shirt and long black skirt or trousers.



We recognise that obtaining uniform items can sometimes be challenging for families. If your child is unable to meet uniform requirements for any reason, please contact their Dean as soon as possible. Deans can work with families to provide support and arrange a temporary uniform pass where appropriate.

Dean Contacts:

Year 9: Mr Havemann – DHavemann@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Year 10: Ms Gifford – SGifford@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Year 11: Ms Clarken – LClarken@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Year 12: Mr Martin – AMartin@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Year 13: Mr Finau – GFinau@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Thank you for working with us to ensure students are prepared and ready for learning each day.

Study News

Term 2 Mid-Year Assessments:

Next week is our Mid-Year Exams and Assessments week (schedule is pictured below). Each day begins with Period 1 (no morning Assembly). Y9 and Y10 students will have 2hour Exams for Maths, English, Science, Social Studies, Health and PE. Y9 Option classes will have 1hour Exams during normal classtime. Some Y10 Option classes will have 1hour Exams during normal classtime. Y11, Y12, Y13 and ESL students will have a double Period 3 for the whole week where they will work on completing Internal Assessments.

Term 2 Mid-Year Assessment 2026										
	Monday 22nd June		Tuesday 23rd June		Wednesday 24th June		Thursday 25th June		Friday 26th June	
8:40am	Period 1		Period 1		Period 1		Period 1		Period 1	
	Y9		Y9		Y9 Exam	82 Option	Y9		Y9	
	Y10		Y10 Exam	Option 2	Y10		Y10		Y10	
	Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13	
9:50am	Period 2		Period 2		Period 2		Period 2		Period 2	
	Y9		Y9 Exam	81 Option	Y9		Y9		Y9	
	Y10		Y10		Y10		Y10 Exam	Option 1	Y10	
	Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13	
10:50am	Break 1		Break 1		Break 1		Break 1		Break 1	
11:20am	Whanau Time		Whanau Time		Whanau Time		Whanau Time		Whanau Time	
11:35am	Y9 Exam	MATHS	Y9 Exam	ENGLISH	Y9 Exam	SOCIAL STUDIES	Y9 Exam	SCIENCE	Y9 Exam	HEALTH & PE
	Y10 Exam	ENGLISH	Y10 Exam	SOCIAL STUDIES	Y10 Exam	SCIENCE	Y10 Exam	MATHS	Y10 Exam	HEALTH & PE
	Y11 Y12 Y13	Double Period 3	Y11 Y12 Y13	Double Period 3	Y11 Y12 Y13	Double Period 3	Y11 Y12 Y13	Double Period 3	Y11 Y12 Y13	Double Period 3
1:30pm	Break 2		Break 2		Break 2		Break 2		Break 2	
2:00pm	Period 5		Period 5		Period 5		Period 5		Period 5	
	Y9		Y9		Y9		Y9		Y9	
	Y10		Y10		Y10		Y10		Y10	
	Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13		Y11 Y12 Y13	
3:00pm	Finish		Finish		Finish		Finish		Finish	
	Y9 - Maths, English, Science, Social Studies, Health & PE 2hr Exams in Classrooms									Normal classes
	Y10 - Maths, English, Science, Social Studies, Health & PE 2hr Exams in Hall and Classrooms									
	Y9 Option 1hr Exams: All Subjects									
	Y10 Option 1hr Exams: French, Te Reo, Horticulture, Robotics									





Exam/Assessment Week Reminders:

- ✓ Students should bring their own stationery – pens, pencils, rules, calculators, etc.
- ✓ Phones must be turned off and left in school bags during Exams
- ✓ No student is permitted to leave their desk in the first hour or the last 20mins of an Exam.

Junior School (Year 9-10)

Study Habits for upcoming mid-year exams

Next week, our juniors will complete their mid-year examinations for their core subjects, with some students also completing assessments in their option subjects.

While exams provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning, they are also an important chance for students to develop study habits and routines that will support their success throughout secondary school and beyond. Learning how to plan ahead, revise regularly, manage time effectively, and persevere through challenges are valuable skills that benefit students long after an exam has finished.

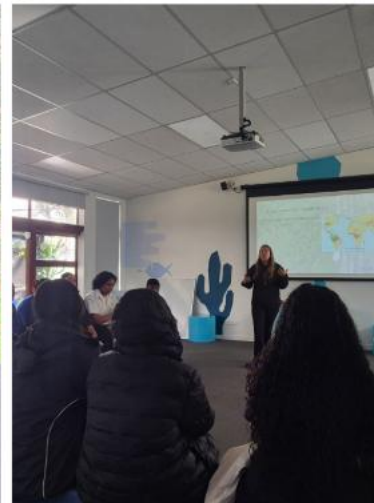
Families can play an important role in supporting students during this time by:

- Encouraging short, regular study sessions rather than last-minute cramming.
- Helping students create a quiet, distraction-free study space.
- Asking students to explain what they have learned, as teaching others is a powerful way to strengthen understanding.
- Supporting healthy routines, including adequate sleep, hydration, and balanced meals.
- Reminding students that learning can be an uncomfortable process and takes time.

We wish our junior school all the very best for their upcoming examinations, particularly our Year 9s who are completing mid-year exams at OC for the first time. We encourage our students to approach the week with confidence, preparation, and a positive attitude.

Zoo Trip GEO2U

The Year 12 students went to Auckland Zoo on Thursday to listen to a sustainability talk about the zoo and their contributions to the rainforest. We learnt a lot about the different ways in which the zoo is trying to be more sustainable. It was also great to see some of the animals found in the rainforest, like Charlie the Orangutan and the Sun Conure birds.





Otago College MUNA Team Celebrated by Rotary Club of Otago

On 16 June 2026, our school's MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) team had the privilege of attending a luncheon hosted by the Otago Rotary Club in recognition of their outstanding achievements. The event was more than a celebration of student success - it was a valuable opportunity for the next generation of leaders to connect with a generation rich in experience, wisdom, and community service.

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who believe in taking action to create lasting change in communities around the world. The Otago Rotary Club has a special connection to our school, having been founded in 1945 by a principal of Otago College who was also a Rotary member.

Our students were warmly welcomed by Rotary members, many of whom were eager to learn about the students' aspirations beyond high school. Conversations flowed easily as students shared their future goals and ambitions. Year 13 student Rokara Naidiri spoke passionately about his dream of becoming a politician, inspiring discussion about leadership and public service.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the opportunity to meet Otago College alumni, including a former Head Girl from the 1950s who is now a Rotary member. Listening to stories of the school's past and hearing firsthand accounts of life and leadership from decades ago provided students with a unique perspective on how Otago College has evolved over the years.

Following lunch, the MUNA team presented their journey to the Rotary members. Students spoke about the countries they represented (Ghana and Panama), the remits they debated, and the extensive research required to understand and advocate for their assigned nations. They reflected on memorable moments from the event and explained how they developed arguments based on the perspectives and interests of their countries.

The presentations also celebrated cultural diversity. Students showcased elements of their countries' cultures through traditional attire and cultural explanations. The Ghana delegation, for example, shared the significance of Kente cloth, highlighting its vibrant colours and rich cultural symbolism. Rotary members were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and showing genuine interest in the students' learning experiences. Our students responded with confidence, demonstrating the knowledge, communication skills, and critical thinking they had developed through MUNA.

The luncheon was a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Otago Rotary Club for their generosity, encouragement, and continued support of our students. Their warm hospitality and willingness to share their knowledge made this a truly special occasion that our students will remember for years to come.







Afternoon Pick-Up Update for Families:

To help keep our afternoons running smoothly and ensure the safety of all students, we are making a small change to our early pick-up routine.

From 2:00 pm onwards, we kindly ask that children are only collected early if it is for a medical reason. If this is the case, parents or caregivers will need to show a medical certificate to the security team at the gate before entering the school. We understand that appointments do come up, so wherever possible, please try to arrange early pick-ups before 2:00 pm.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support.

These changes help us keep our school safe and well-organised for everyone.