



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 3rd July 2026

Important Dates

July 1 st – July 11 th	Japan Trip
July 3 rd	Last Day of Term 2
July 20 th	First Day of Term 3



From Our Principal

As we reach the end of the second term, it is an opportune moment to reflect on what has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding period for our College community. The pace of school life has been relentless. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort and commitment shown by both our students and staff. Across the classroom, sports field, and stage, and in service to the wider community, our students have continued to embody the virtues and traditions that make Ōtāhuhu College so special.

Currently, we have twenty students in Japan, who are having an eye opening experience, and we look forward to seeing more of their adventures. Our Year 13 students have their Ball in the second week of the holidays and a big thank you to all the families for their efforts to make this such a special event. Looking ahead, Term 3 will be an important one academically. School examinations will provide students with valuable opportunities to assess their progress and prepare for the challenges ahead. For our senior students, these examinations are an important stepping stone towards the NCEA external examinations in Term 4. I encourage all our students to use the holiday break wisely, balancing rest and recovery with appropriate preparation.

Thank you to all members of our College community for your continued support throughout what has been a highly successful term. I wish our students, staff, and families a safe, restful, and enjoyable holiday break.

Attendance

Did you know that chronically absent students, by the time they are 25 years old, earn an average of \$40,000 less per year than their peers who regularly attended school? Missing school doesn't just affect students' academic progress—it impacts their long-term career opportunities and financial stability.

At Otahuhu College, we take absenteeism seriously and intervene early to prevent long-term consequences. Students who miss 10-15 days in a term are referred to Attendance Services, while those with 15 or more days absent are reported to Oranga Tamariki. These measures ensure that students and their families get the support they need to prioritize attendance. Let's work together to secure brighter futures for our students.

Ko e fānau 'oku nau nofo mei he akó, ko e ki'i pa'anga si'isi'i pē 'oku nau ma'ú, \$40,000 'o a'u ki he'enau ta'u 25. Koia ai, ma'u ako 'i he 'aho kotoa pē ke ma'u ha kaha'u 'oku lelei.

Ua fa'amaonia i su'esu'ega o tamaiti e le to'a'aga i le a'oga e maua se tupe itiiti e \$40,000 i le tausaga i le taimi e 25 ai tausaga le matua. E fa'aluaaina ma fa'atoluina lea seleni pe'a to'aga i le a'oga i le taimi e aulia ai le 25 tausaga. To'aga i le aoga i aso uma mo se lumana'i manuia.



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 recognize 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: Mrs. 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. _

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-organized for everyone.

JAPAN TRIP 2026



Our 20 Otago College students are off on a whirlwind adventure across the Pacific in Japan. After eighteen hours of flying, we made it to Tokyo. First stop was 7-Eleven for Egg Sandwiches and Onagiri. We have seen the oldest temple in Japan - Senjōji Temple, the Tokyo Skytree, Harajuku and Shibuya Crossing. Later we are off to Hakone, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osaka. Looking forward to sharing all our adventures with you when we are home.





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Sports News

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Hike

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, a group of students recently completed a practice hike along the Cossey–Massey Loop Track in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park. The 8.4 km hike took approximately four hours and challenged students with steep hills, and stairs. Following a week of rain, the Hunua Falls were flowing beautifully, providing stunning views of the surrounding bush, dam, and natural landscape.

Students were divided into two groups, with each member taking on a specific role to support the team. Responsibilities included leading the group, keeping track of time, ensuring no one was left behind, and encouraging teammates throughout the hike. These roles strengthened teamwork, leadership, and communication. Students were also supported by Ms Bulteel, Mr Hart, and Mr Shaun, whose encouragement helped everyone stay motivated during the more challenging sections of the track.

Throughout the hike, regular breaks were taken for water, snacks, and to enjoy the scenery. At the end of the day, both groups reflected on the experience by discussing what had been learned, what had been enjoyed most, and what could be improved before the next hike.

The practice hike was a valuable learning experience that strengthened resilience, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills. It also highlighted the importance of encouragement and supporting one another when facing challenges. A sincere thank you goes to the staff members who made the day both enjoyable and rewarding.

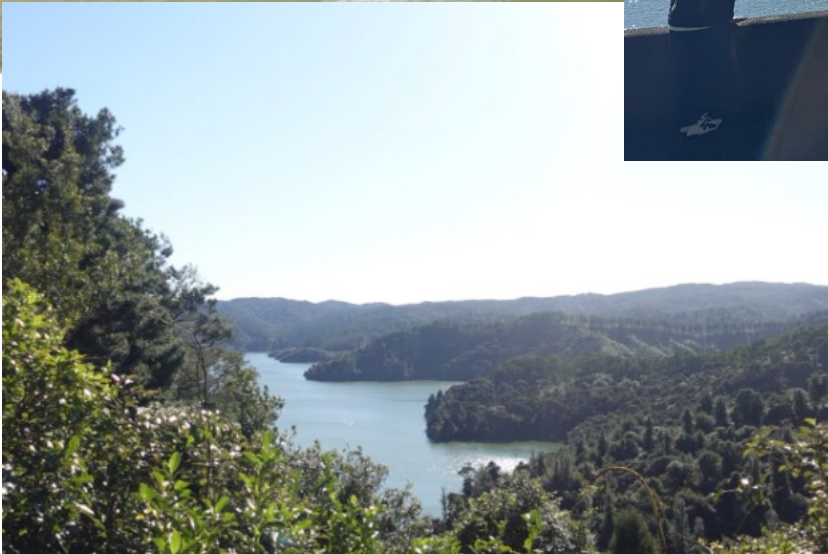


Table Tennis Competition! 🏓

Our school proudly participated in the Auckland Winter Interschools Table Tennis Competition for the very first time this year, entering two teams: OC1 and OC2.

The results were nothing short of outstanding. Both teams performed exceptionally well, with OC2 finishing 1st in their pool and OC1 finishing 2nd.

Our teams were represented by:

- OC2 (1st Place): Colenso King, Kreesch Sharma, and Nojan Tabanao.
- OC1 (2nd Place): Sione Molia, Dallas Smith, and Brian Wilson.

Throughout the competition, every player displayed exceptional teamwork, determination, resilience, and sportsmanship, representing our school with pride both on and off the table.

A special congratulations goes to Brian Wilson, who achieved the highest individual success rate across the entire tournament. Brian lost just one match, finishing with an outstanding 92%-win rate to claim the top individual honour.

Even more impressively, every one of our players finished first in their respective divisions, highlighting the remarkable depth of talent, commitment, and skill within our table tennis programme.

Congratulations to the entire OC1 and OC2 teams on this remarkable achievement. Your hard work, dedication, and positive attitude have set an outstanding example and made our school community incredibly proud. We look forward to watching you continue to grow and achieve even greater success in the future.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of our dedicated coaches and to Ms. Huang for your unwavering support, encouragement, and commitment to our students. Your guidance, expertise, and countless hours of hard work have played an essential role in this outstanding achievement. Thank you for inspiring our students to strive for excellence both in sport and in life.

Well done, Team Table Tennis OC! 🏓 🙌



Term 2 House points

This term we had lots of challenges and events to earn House points. This term we had Junior Tag (1st Seddon, 2nd Massey), Senior tag (1st Grey, 2nd Hobson, Massey and Seddon), epro8, Kahoot quizzes, youth week, Mathex, attendance and engagement grades all working towards the house points. In the end it was the study log points that helped the winning house pull ahead to be 50 points in front of second place.



The House Points for Term 2:

4th Seddon 191.5 points

3rd Grey 212.5 points

2nd Hobson 216.3 points

And the winner of the term with 261.3 points

MASSEY HOUSE

Extracurricular

French Film Festival

For the sixth consecutive year, Ōtāhuhu College French students ventured across the Harbour Bridge to the Bridgeway Cinema to discover the French Film Festival. This year's group comprised Year 9 and Year 10 French option students, as well as committed French Club members up to Year 13. The experience affected both the cerebellum and the heartstrings, with the immersive French dialogue benefitting the students' language acquisition while the storylines charmed and moved us.

The junior students watched *Ma mère, dieu, et Sylvie Vartan* (My Mother, God, and Sylvie Vartan), an inspirational tale inspired by a true story of young of Moroccan extraction born with a club foot, whose mother determinedly fights to remove all obstacles in the way of him living a normal life. The film offered a kaleidoscopic mixture of pathos, sardonic humour, bold acting, and elegant music. A student who has now attended three years of the French Film Festival with our school remarked that this film was "the best one yet", and the Year 10 French class has since requested for the movie soundtrack to be played in class while they work; the film clearly made an impression. Meanwhile, the advanced French students in the senior school also viewed *L'Étranger* (The Stranger), an adaptation of the eponymous novel by Albert Camus. This novel is not only an extremely famous French classic but is also relatively accessible in terms of language, so the senior students have been given a copy of the novel, and their goal, after watching the film, is to make their way through reading the novel by the end of the year: a



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milestone for them in their French learning!

The event once again proved an educational and entertaining success, and we thank the Bridgeway Cinema for continuing to welcome us to their premises and to offer us such beneficial pricing.

Vive le festival du film français !



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Community News



Pacific Parents' Fono

What is it like to study at the University of Otago as a Pacific student?

- Overview: The Pasifika experience at Otago
- Accommodation: Life in a residential college
- Admission, scholarships, costs, support
- Study options: Arts, Law, Business, Sciences and Health Sciences



Scan QR code to register

Thursday 2 July 2026, 6pm
 Ōtāhuhu College Hall, Ōtāhuhu, Auckland
 For further information: 09 373 9704
auckland.liaison@otago.ac.nz

