



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Thursday 16th July 2026

Important Dates

July 20 th	First day of Term 3
July 24 th	Mid-Year Reports emailed to caregivers
August 3 rd	Cook Island language week



From Our Principal

Welcome back to the start of the the third term.

New Zealand education is undergoing significant change, with a clear move towards a more rigorous and demanding curriculum and assessment system. We are already seeing this through the implementation of the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs), and teachers and support staff are working hard to prepare for these changes. However, it is equally important that students are ready. This means working harder in class, keeping books neat and well organised for effective study, completing more extended writing across all subjects, and developing consistent study and homework habits. Our school systems must also adapt to ensure they effectively support and reinforce these expectations.

As parents you should notice an increase in homework, and when you look at your child's books see them well presented with more long pieces of writing in them.

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

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.

The ~Royal Ball~ 2026





Congratulations to the year 13 cohort for your perseverance, dedication and hard-work to date with a focal point on both academic achievement and attendance. As a result, this years ball has the highest attendees preparing for this significant, spectacular and memorable event.

An immense ~thank you~ to the student ball committee, Mr Finau, Ms Tuialii for all your work behind the scenes.

Graduation: Graduation is another significant event for our year 13 cohort and our families. However, 'attendance & engagement grades' are imperative for all year 13s to be eligible to graduate. Therefore, we encourage our students and families to sustain the positive attendance seen in term 1 and term 2, for a successful term 3 and that will support the eligibility to take part in all celebrations at the end of the year.

Prefects' Collaboration 2026

Prefect Collaboration 2026, proudly hosted by the Otahuhu College prefects team '26' & Mr Finau, was an immense success.

It was an incredible opportunity to connect with other school prefects, share ideas, build new friendships, and learn from one another as student leaders from various schools. We kept the invitation small this year due to a busy 11 week term, ball organization and preparation & due to our students flying to Japan but the enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to collaborate made the event a great success.

The event included group 'talanoa & sharing', celebrating and acknowledging the achievements from all schools to date & concluding with a short cultural tiktok dance, which has received over 3K likes on our school Instagram page.

Year 13 is a vital time to develop critical life skills like independence, time management, and financial responsibility before entering higher education or the workforce. Together, we strengthened our leadership skills, exchanged valuable perspectives, and created lasting memories.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event so special. We look forward to continuing to work together and inspiring positive change in our school communities.





Japan 2026

We had a whirlwind adventure in Japan. We were away for ten days, saw five cities, two theme parks, the Peace Museum in Hiroshima, shrines and temples, shopping, Japanese food and numerous rides on the bullet train.

We learnt a lot about the impacts of the A-bomb in Hiroshima, the aerial bombs of Osaka, the tikanga and practices of Japanese people in public spaces – so quiet, but also faster is better! Some of the standout places included the river cruise on Lake Kawaguchiko, cruising the canals in Dotonbori, Osaka, travelling during peak commute times to make it to Disneyland and Universal Studios, and the cleansing rituals at Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples.

We tried really hard to see Mt Fuji, but the clouds hung low most of the time. We went up Tokyo SkyTree which is 634m high, compared to Auckland Skytower at 328m. We ate some amazing food, including Japanese McDonald's, wagyu beef, tonkatsu and okonomiyaki.

A very big thank you from me to our families for all their support and to Mr Roberts and Ms McRoberts who came along and made this a very successful trip.

Mrs Lees-Green









