



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 31st July 2026

Important Dates

August 3 rd	Cook Island Language week
August 17 th	Tongan Language week
August 20 th	Parent Teacher Meetings



From Our Principal

In Term 3, senior students need to prepare for end-of-year NCEA external examinations. While November may feel distant, the remaining school weeks will race by. Our school exams in Week 9 are vital for students' preparation, serving two purposes:

- 1. **Derived Grades:** Official Derived Grades are vital, should a student be unable to sit their end-of-year exams because of illness or an emergency.*
- 2. **Exam practice:** Having an authentic exam experience is very important, with students having to manage time, handle nerves, work through varied question formats, and sit multiple papers.*

Students must not take a casual approach to practice exams as a 'wait and see' or 'no-study' mindset is ill-advised. While it is rare for a student to feel 100% ready, thorough preparation pays off. Grades typically improve between practice exams and November, but maximizing this practice – and the valuable teacher feedback that follows – is essential for your child's progress and ultimate success.

All Year 13 families have been emailed the Graduation requirements. We want all our Year 13 students to Graduate and the basic requirements are to turn up and work hard.

Our Commitments

Our commitment next week is to be supportive. We must all be aware that we don't know what's going on in the lives of those we pass and, more than anything else, no matter where they may be, a smile and greeting is much the better engagement than to look away or at the pavement with detachment. We reap what we sow. Therefore, if we want our day to be filled with enthusiasm, logically we should be enthusiastic. If we want our day to be joyful, then we must reflect just that. This references, of course, our inner state of mind and how we choose to present ourselves to the world – something that we completely control. We encourage each other here at Otahuhu College to greet and acknowledge each other with interest, putting in mind the needs of the other rather than oneself. It is good to remember when we help others, we help ourselves.

Attendance

Providing Notes for Absences: A Simple but Vital Step

If your child is absent from school, providing a written note explaining the reason is critical. This simple act helps Otahuhu College maintain accurate attendance records and ensures that absences are justified. Whether due to illness or unavoidable family matters, a clear explanation helps us identify patterns and provide the necessary support for



students.
 Parents and caregivers can email, call, or send a written note with their child. Let’s work together to maintain open communication and address any attendance challenges promptly.

Kātaki ‘o ‘omai ha tohi fekau’aki mo e ‘uhinga na’e nofo ai ho’o tamá ‘i he akó.
 Faamolemole, aumai se tusi e faamalamalama ai pe'a le alu le tamaititi i le aoga.

Study News

Term 3 Study Support

Need a little extra help with your learning? **Study support sessions are available throughout Term 3** for students who want to catch up, get extra help, prepare for assessments, or strengthen their understanding.

Check the **Term 3 Study Support Timetable** below or on the college website to see what support is available, when sessions are held, and where to go.

With Parent Teacher Meetings coming up, this is also a great time to talk with your whānau about the support available and plan for getting the most out of Term 3.

Don’t wait until you’re struggling — ask for help early and make the most of the opportunities available.

2026 Term 3 Study Support Timetable

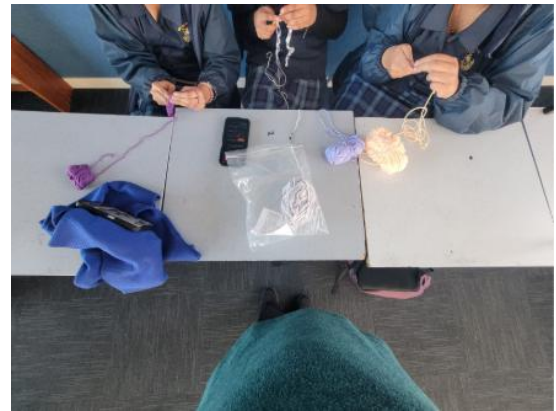
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school					
Break 1	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11SBC, Ms Ngai, L8	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11SBC, Ms Ngai, L8
Break 2	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11SBC, Ms Jones, L6	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11SBC, Ms Ngai, L8 CHE3U, Ms Timu, L10	11COM, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13	11SBC, Ms Ngai, L8
After school 3-4pm	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 BIO2U, BIO3U, Ms Leslie, L3 Preparation for Externals: Planning, Notetaking, Revision Techniques and Exam Strategies, Years 11, 12 & 13, Ms Christensen, T1	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11ART, ART2U, ART3U, Ms Birch, M1 PHY2U & PHY3U, Ms Acosta, L7 Math, Library	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11ART, ART2U, ART3U, Ms Theunissen, M28 Y10 CAA Writing, Mr Hart, A1 CAL3U, Mrs Avci, A12	11COM, ECO2U, ECO3U, BUS3U, Ms Ellis-Smith Mr Hart, M11 M13 11ART, ART2U, ART3U, Ms Corin, M27 English, Years 11, 12 & 13, Library	

- Social Sciences (GEO, HIS, RES) in breaks and after school **by prior arrangement** with GEO: Ms Lees-Green M21, Ms Mharakurwa M26, Mr Havemann M24 HIS: Ms Booth M4, Ms Rushwaya M25 RES: Ms Bulteel M17.
- Math students are welcome to come for 15 minutes or stay for the hour. This can be used for getting help, revision, homework, or anything else maths related.
- On English assessment deadline days: Fridays (to be confirmed by English teacher) M3 or A1, 3-5pm.

Crochet Club

Crochet Club has been thriving in its second year here at O.C. On Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, students gather in A16 to spin some yarns (pun intended). Veteran crocheters bring their current projects and crochet while chatting with friends or watching videos. Those that are new to the hobby learn from scratch with Mrs. Thomason, Mrs. M., or a veteran student. We have collected quite a variety of yarn and hooks, so learners and experts alike can come empty-handed and still enjoy the hobby. This is a relaxing environment where everyone is welcome to relax and be creative.

If you are looking for an extra-curricular activity, come check us out! There are requirements if you would like to be considered a member of the club, but there is no pressure to join. See Mrs. Thomason for details. We also do small competitions each term, with our next one starting in week 3. We will be talking about the details for this at our meeting on 4th August.



Crochet Club members working on their new skills.

Senior Drama Students Meet a Knight

In association with The British Council of New Zealand, St Cuthbert's College Drama Department welcomed a very special visitor. Sir Gregory Doran, former artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Both Davien Toi and Markle Ossamang from O.C. joined other students across Tāmaki to explore Romeo and Juliet. The students then workshoped the Te Arawa love story of Hinemoa and Tūtānekai.

It was apparently a fabulous day and a unique opportunity for students to learn from a global expert on Shakespeare and explore their own stories from this whenua. Well done to both these students to give up their holiday time, no doubt it was worth it and new friendships would have been made.

You can hear more from Sir Gregory Doran on Radio NZ, [click here](#).



Mangere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Meets OC Student Leaders

Last Thursday, 23 July, Otahuhu College had the privilege of welcoming representatives from the Mangere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board for an engaging and thought-provoking session with our student leaders. The visit began with a warm pōwhiri and karakia, reflecting our school's values of manaakitanga and respect.

The purpose of the visit was to share the Local Board's upcoming three-year plans and, more importantly, to hear directly from our young people. Students were encouraged to share their ideas, discuss challenges affecting their community, and provide valuable feedback on how the area can continue to grow and improve. Their thoughtful contributions highlighted the importance of including youth voices in shaping the future of our community.



The visiting team included Walter Tongiamua (Chair, Mangere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board), Christine O'Brien (Deputy Chair), Brandii Stephano (Local Board Engagement Advisor), and Joel O'Malley (Principal Advisor, Social Innovation, Auckland Council). Joel also introduced students to Buzzly, a platform that encourages young people to share innovative ideas, with many contributions being recognised and rewarded.



The interactive session demonstrated the Local Board's commitment to listening to young people and empowering them to become informed, engaged citizens. It was an inspiring opportunity for our students to realise that their voices matter and that they can play an active role in shaping the future of their community.



Philosophy Club

Philosophy Club continues its expansion at Ōtāhuhu College and is flourishing as term three unfolds. Our members have recently discussed, debated, and digested topics such as friendship, manipulation, and honesty through the work of philosophers such as Plutarch, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Immanuel Kant.

Last week, we relocated to the drama suite in order to recreate Plato's cave, a metaphor for the entrapment of humanity in a state of ignorance and folly. The act of literally recreating the cave enabled our young philosophers to metaphorically exit the cave and achieve enlightenment! During this session, we also explored Plato's theory of forms, a concept which the students applied by working in groups to design their "ideal" form of an everyday object, then facing probing questions from the other groups to identify flaws in their conceptualisation of that object.

This week's highlight was the gift of a virtual visit from a legendary luminary of Ōtāhuhu College intellectualism, one Mr McKenzie! He drew our attention to some of the horrors of history, such as the Nazi regime and King Leopold II of Belgium. Through these pertinent examples, Mr McKenzie inspired us to consider to what extent we are each responsible for being aware of injustice and deception and resisting it, as well as reflecting on potential solutions for preventing evil in societies of the future.

If you would like to join Philosophy Club, our sessions are held weekly in A1 on Thursday afternoons. René Descartes once said, 'I think; therefore, I am.' So, if you are thinking about joining Philosophy Club, congratulations, you have already become a member! See you soon.





Sports News

The Senior Boys Football team have finished the round robin phase of their competition in 1st Place! They have won 9 from 9 scoring 56 goals and only conceding 7. They have a home semi-final next week v Ormiston.





Important Reminders

Students who need to leave school early must obtain a pass before leaving. If a student is unwell, a pass may be issued by the School Nurse. Alternatively, parents or caregivers should contact the school to arrange and advise of an early pick-up. In all other circumstances, students should obtain a pass from their Dean or Deputy Principal.

Enrolments

Enrolments for 2027 are now open. Please pick up an enrolment form from our school office or fill out a form online on our School Website. Click the link below for the Enrolment Form

<https://otahuhucollege.school.kiwi/enrolment>

Enrolment requirements:

- Birth Certificate / Passport
- Visa / Proof of Residency
- Proof of Address
- School Report
- Current Phone Number

For any further assistance please email: enrolment@otahuhucollege.school.nz