



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 7th August 2026

Important Dates

8 th August	Auckland Robotics Championships
17 th August	Tongan Language Week
20 th August	Parent Teachers meetings



From Our Principal

*One of the key indicators of student success is ensuring that our young people remain engaged in their education and continue through to the completion of their schooling. I am pleased to report that our student retention rate for 2025 was **86.5%**, exceeding the national average of **83%**. This is a significant achievement for our school community. Research consistently shows that students who remain at school for longer enjoy better long-term outcomes in terms of health, employment opportunities, financial stability, and overall wellbeing.*

*Our school also continues to perform strongly in student achievement. Leaver data shows that Ōtāhuhu College exceeded the national averages for **NCEA Levels 1, 2, and 3**, reflecting the commitment of our students, staff, and families to academic success.*

*Looking ahead, families should be aware that all subjects will include an **end-of-year examination**. These examinations will contribute a meaningful proportion of each student's final grade, although practical subjects are expected to have a lower weighting once the curriculum is finalised. This change reflects both the demands of the new curriculum and the need to ensure confidence in assessment authenticity in an era where artificial intelligence tools are increasingly accessible.*

The expectations for learning and achievement are rising nationally, and it is important that our Year 9 and 10 students recognise the need to develop strong study habits and consistently apply themselves in class. To support this, staff regularly undertake book checks to gain an overview of the quality, quantity, and presentation of student work across subjects. Feedback from these checks highlights the importance of maintaining well-organised and logically presented workbooks. A suggested format has been provided for students who may be unsure about establishing a consistent approach to their learning materials.

Our extracurricular programmes continue to provide many opportunities for students to excel. Congratulations to the majority of our netball teams who competed in finals on Wednesday, with all of our junior teams winning their respective grades. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the dedication of both players and coaches.

We also congratulate both of our table tennis teams on qualifying for the Auckland Championships. Our First XI football team secured an impressive victory in their semifinal, and we wish our First XV rugby team all the best as they host their semifinal on Saturday, with kickoff at 12.00pm.

*This weekend, Ōtāhuhu College is also proud to host the **Auckland Robotics Championships**. We extend our best wishes to all of our students competing and look forward to seeing their innovation, teamwork, and creativity on display.*

Finally, thank you to the many staff, coaches, managers, volunteers, and whānau who support our students through the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available. Your time, commitment, and encouragement play a vital role in enriching the school experience and helping our students grow both in and beyond the classroom.



Our Commitments

The focus for next week is being on time. Students are expected to be at school by 8:30am, and then seated in the correct space in assembly. With the weather due to change to more wintery conditions, your child should have a plan to get to school on wet days on time. With Auckland traffic this often means leaving 10-15 minutes earlier.

Please remind your child that they need to move to class as soon as the first bell goes, and they should be seated, with their books out and bags on the floor ready to learn by the second bell. From time to time students may not have finished all the expected work during class time, when this happens in the last period of the day, your child will likely be required to stay behind 5-10 minutes to complete the work to a standard expected at Otahuhu College. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the Principal.

Attendance

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.



Parent Teacher Meetings

On Thursday 20th August school will finish at 1.00pm.

Parents/caregivers are invited to come into school to discuss your child's progress with each of their subject teachers. Meeting times are between 2.00pm to 7.00pm

Note: All teachers are unavailable between 5:00pm and 5:30pm

Each meeting is scheduled to last for 5 minutes and will take place in A-Block and the Library. These are approximate times and assist teachers with preparation. We appreciate your patience.

- ✓ Click on this link: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/mu222>



- ✓ Or scan this QR Code: _____
- ✓ Type in your details, the student that the meeting is for, and then choose the Subject and teacher that you will be visiting. Click on the  button to add another Subject/teacher.

OTAHUHU COLLEGE SUBJECT TEACHER - PARENT MEETINGS

Step 1: Enter your details.

EMAIL
[text input]

PARENT'S FULL NAME
[text input]

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER
[text input]

BOOK FOR
1 student ▼

STUDENT 1
[text input]

GO

OTAHUHU COLLEGE SUBJECT TEACHER - PARENT MEETINGS

Step 2: Choose up to 6 teachers.

● Select the subject from the upper box, then the teacher you want from the lower box.

FOR JOHN

[subject dropdown]
[teacher dropdown]

+ Add another teacher for John

GO

- ✓ Then select 'GO' and tick the times you want for your meetings.
- ✓ You will be emailed a confirmation that this time has been booked for you.

If you have more than one child at school, you can make all your meetings at around the same time for your convenience. Meetings are held on a first-in-first-served basis, so we encourage you to make bookings early.

Study News

Y12 Religious Studies trip to the Mosque

On Monday our students from Religious Studies visited the mosque close to Otahuhu college. This was part of our religious studies lesson on Islam to give our class an on the ground insight into this religion. We were greeted with an Islamic welcome from people in the Mosque who explained to us the beliefs and tradition in Islam as well as what this religion has to offer.

We also learned about the 5 pillars of Islam, how important prayer to them and how significant the Qu'ran is in the lives of all Muslims.

Our best part of the trip was seeing the praying areas of the Mosque, understanding that we needed to remove shoes prior to us going on site and show it as a symbol of respect. This led to question that the Mosque provided very interesting and informative answer. Our Islam based fieldtrip was very educative, it take the in-class theory onto a completely new level and increased appreciation for other religions, as well as teaching us respect and inclusion. Thanks to the mosque for having us!



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.

Junior School

YEAR 9 BUSINESS STUDIES

The Commerce Department are excited to welcome our new Semester Two, Year 9 Business Studies class to M11.

Last period on Thursday, students took part in a fun and engaging budgeting activity using lollies instead of money. Through this hands-on lesson, students learned the importance of making financial decisions and explored the difference between needs and wants. They had to carefully decide how to spend their limited "budget" of lollies, demonstrating that making choices with limited resources is an important life skill.

The activity encouraged students to think critically about their spending habits and recognise why prioritising needs before wants is essential for effective money management.

Next week, students will build on this learning by beginning to calculate and create simple budgets. We look forward to helping them develop the financial literacy skills needed to make smart financial decisions both now and in the future.

