



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2026

Important Dates

22 nd OCT	Arts Awards Evening
26 th OCT	Labour Day (School closed)
29 th OCT	Sports Awards Evening



From Our Principal

This week has been a celebration of the arts. Otahuhu College has a national reputation for being one of the top art schools in New Zealand. Thursday night was a fantastic event as we both showcased and acknowledged the hard work and determination of our art students.

Well done to our Rugby Sevens team who won the Auckland Championships last week.

An area we are working on is developing more independence and responsibility with our students. A key step towards achieving this, is for the students being responsible for their books. By students being responsible for their own books it signals:

- *They need to be responsible for their own learning*
- *Homework is expected*
- *Study is expected*

These three things are essential for your children to succeed at their highest level and set themselves up for a bright and prosperous future.

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 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

School starts promptly at 8:35 a.m., and being on time is essential for students to start their day on the right foot. Arriving late disrupts learning, both for the student and their classmates. At Otahuhu College, we emphasize the importance of punctuality as a key life skill that prepares students for success in both academics and future employment. Families can help by ensuring students leave home with enough time to arrive before 8:35 a.m. If lateness becomes a habit, we recommend reaching out to whānau teachers or attendance staff for advice and support. Let's work together to make every morning count.

‘Oku mahu’inga ke kamata e akó ‘i he taimí. Kamata ‘i he 8:35 pongipongi.

E amata le aoga i le 8:35 i le taeao. Ia iai i le a'oga a'o le'i amataina lesona.

Faamolemole, aumai se tusi e faamalamalama ai pe'a le alu le tamaititi i le aoga.

Senior School (Year 11-13)

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Trip to Rangitoto and Motutapu islands

Over the weekend of 17th and 18th October, we were fortunate to have lovely weather for a great Duke of Ed trip to Rangitoto and Motutapu islands in the Hauraki Gulf. Fourteen students (and three teachers!) were at school at 7.15AM on Saturday in order to catch the ferry to Rangitoto. Carrying tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, water, and plenty of snacks, we made it to the top of Rangitoto for beautiful views on Saturday lunchtime. Afterward, we crossed to the Home Bay campsite on Motutapu island. Students cooked together and had a chance to enjoy the beautiful views before settling into their tents for the night. On Sunday we started out by climbing a huge hill on the edge of the campsite, before returning to the Rangitoto ferry wharf via the Coastal Track, battling uneven footing, lots of rocks to clamber over, and intense sun. We had almost no breaks in the last two hours in order to make the ferry on time. It was intense!

This trip has given students many benefits. Being out in nature has made different students appreciate “rubbish bins”, “warm bathrooms” and “comfortable beds” that they took for granted before. Almost everyone was pushed past what they thought they could manage—only to find out that they were capable of more than they expected! There was a chance for friendships to develop in between year groups and students to do problem-solving with putting up a tent or following a map. Finally, everyone got to appreciate the beautiful New Zealand natural environment that we are so lucky to have.

Well done to our students, thank you to their families for the support, and a big thank you to Mr Hart and Mr Shaun who gave up their weekends for this mahi!



CAREERS News

Manukau District Court Community Day

Five students attended the Manukau District Court Community Day today, where they gained valuable insight into New Zealand's justice system.

They had the opportunity to speak with police officers, lawyers, and several judges, learning more about their roles and responsibilities within the legal system.

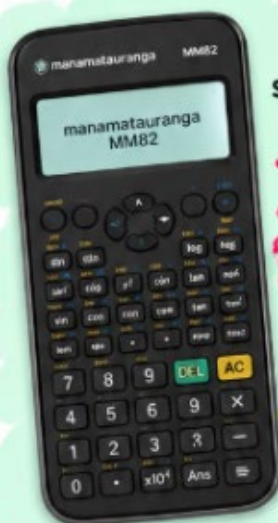
A judge organised an interactive courtroom activity, which involved selecting students to take on different roles, including the victim, witness, perpetrator, and jurors. This engaging activity gave students a hands-on experience of how a courtroom operates.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and learned a great deal. It was a valuable opportunity for them to explore potential career pathways in the legal field and gain a better understanding of the justice system.



Study News

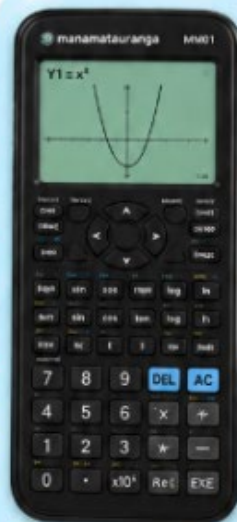
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REMINDER:

ALL STUDENTS 9-11 REQUIRE A CALCULATOR
AS PART OF THEIR EQUIPMENT.

Sports News

The **Junior Volleyball Southern Zone competition** got underway on Thursday at Bruce Pulman Arena, with Ōtāhuhu College proudly represented by three girls' teams and one boys' team.

The boys had a challenging start to the competition, going down to Tuakau College in a closely contested match. Despite the narrow loss, the team will take valuable lessons from the game as they continue to develop their skills and teamwork.

The girls made an outstanding start, with all three teams winning their opening-round matches. Their strong performances were a great way to kick off the competition and build momentum for the weeks ahead.

As the season progresses, all teams will continue to work on their skills, teamwork and game systems to improve their overall performance and play exciting, entertaining volleyball.

We look forward to seeing our junior teams continue to grow, develop and proudly represent Ōtāhuhu College throughout the competition.





Congratulations to our **Senior Boys 7s team**, who were crowned Boys Championship winners at the Auckland Secondary Schools Open 7s Tournament last week.

This victory was especially rewarding after the team had reached the final of this tournament for the third consecutive year, finishing runners-up in each of the previous two seasons. This year, the boys were determined to go one step further and were rewarded for their hard work with the championship title.

The final was a hard-fought contest, with Ōtāhuhu trailing 7–5 at halftime before showing great composure and determination in the second half. The team fought their way back to claim a 12–7 victory, with captain Isikeli Tu'uholoaki scoring the decisive try in the closing stages to secure the title.

A fantastic achievement for the players and management team, and a proud moment for Ōtāhuhu College.





Last Friday our **Senior Girls Sevens Teams** competed in the Auckland Secondary School Sevens competition at Waitemata Rugby Club. The Girls played hard and competed to make us proud despite the number of injuries affecting the team. Our first game saw five tries against Baradene, four of which were scored by year 9 Senara Apa.

Our second game took out some of our players with injuries, leaving no subs for our final pool game. Despite this, they backed each other, never gave up and truly showed their strength. Thank you to our parents for their continuous support and thank you to each of the girls who showed up to represent our school and their families.



Waka Ama

Jr Waka ama training is officially underway at Ian Shaw Park! Both our boys and girls have been working hard, developing their paddling skills, building teamwork, and having lots of fun along the way. With the regatta coming up on **Saturday, 31 October**, everyone is looking forward to putting their hard work into action and representing our school. Ka pai to all our paddlers for their enthusiasm and effort!





Health and Wellness News

INFORMATION ABOUT WHOOPING COUGH

Kia ora

A person at Otago College has been identified as having whooping cough (pertussis). There is a small chance students and staff may have whooping cough if they have been near this infectious person.

While the risk is low, please watch for whooping cough symptoms in your child, or as a staff member. This is especially important if you have a baby under 12 months in your household, as they can become seriously ill from whooping cough.

What are the whooping cough symptoms?

Whooping cough is a bacterial infection that causes coughing fits.

Early symptoms usually include a runny nose, fever, and dry cough.

The cough gradually gets worse and lasts for 8-12 weeks, often developing into long coughing attacks. In babies and young children, coughing attacks often end with a 'whoop' sound as they take a breath, or with vomiting or gagging.

Who can get whooping cough?

Anyone can get whooping cough. Even if you have been immunised or had whooping cough before, you can still get it. Generally, a person needs to be in face-to-face contact with an infectious person for more than one hour.

Vaccination reduces the risk of a serious infection of whooping cough and also of hospitalisation. It also helps prevent you passing the disease to others even if you catch it.

What to do if you develop any early signs of whooping cough

If you or your child has any of the symptoms (above) or a cough lasting for more than two weeks:

1. **Stay home from school** while unwell;
2. **Keep away from babies under 12 months old, pregnant women and people with a weak immune system (immunocompromised)** while unwell;
3. **Call Healthline** for free anytime 24/7 on 0800 611 116; they may advise you to see your health care provider for further assessment.

Immunisation is the best way to protect against whooping cough

Whooping cough immunisation for children is offered for FREE at 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months, 4 years and 11 years. If you are not sure of your immunity, check with your GP or practice nurse. Boosters are available for adults at 45 years and 65 years of age.

It's also important pregnant women get immunised, as it helps protect both mother and baby. Immunisation is recommended every time you are pregnant.

Cover coughs and sneezes

Anyone with symptoms should cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze, throw away used tissues, and wash and dry hands well afterwards. This helps prevent illnesses from spreading.



TeWhatuOra.govt.nz

National Public Health Service Northern Region
Private Bag 92 605
Symonds Street, Auckland 1035
Waea pūkoro: 09 623 4600

Where can you get more information?

More information on whooping cough is available on www.info.health.nz. For health advice contact your doctor or usual hauora provider, or you can call Healthline for free anytime on 0800 611 116.

Ngā mihi/Yours sincerely

Enrolments 2027

A reminder that we are still accepting enrolments for 2027.
Please collect a form from our school office or click the link below to apply online.
<https://otahuhucollege.school.kiwi/enrolment>

- Required documents:
- Birth Certificate / Passport
 - Visa / Proof of residency
 - Proof of Address
 - Most recent School report
 - Current phone number

Please note the following important dates:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Monday, 23 November 2026 | – Entrance Examination and Orientation Day |
| Tuesday, 2 February 2027 | – First day of school for Year 9 students |