ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE



Ōtāhuhu College

Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

Important Dates

20th November	**Last Day for Years 12 and 13**
Mon 23rd – Thurs 26th	**Numeracy Further Assessment Opportunity (FAO) Yr11 & Yr12 – OC Library**
27th November	**Last Day of school for Year 11**
28th November	**Yr13 Graduation (10am – 1pm)**

From Our Principal

Overall, the examination period has gone smoothly. While there have been well-publicised concerns nationally regarding online examinations, our students have been exceptionally well prepared. The outstanding attendance at our derived grade examinations, coupled with students remaining engaged in learning right through to the examination period, means that any derived grades required will be both accurate and reflective of students' best work and achievement.

On Monday, we look forward to welcoming our Year 9 students for 2027 to the College. Their entrance assessments and orientation programme mark the beginning of an exciting journey, and we are eager to introduce them to the opportunities and expectations that come with being part of our school community.

Attendance remains important over these final two weeks of the school year. A great deal of meaningful learning is still taking place in classrooms, alongside a range of end-of-year activities and celebrations. We encourage all students to maintain their focus and finish the year strongly, taking pride in their efforts and achievements as we prepare for a successful conclusion to 2026.

Our Commitments

The behaviour focus for next week is on being supportive. This means more than just talking to our children about treating others like they would want to be treated. It also means being supportive in learning. School is, and should be challenging, the work must require thought, and mistakes have to be made if learning is to happen. A key part of being supportive at Otahuhu College is based around supporting each other in our learning, making mistakes and working hard to do better next time

Attendance

Every day missed from school is a missed opportunity to learn, grow, and prepare for the future. Chronically absent students are significantly less likely to earn qualifications and, by age 25, they earn on average $40,000 less annually than their regularly attending peers.

To support our students, Otahuhu College monitors absences closely. Students with 10-15 days absent per term are referred to Attendance Services, while those missing 15 or more days may be referred to Oranga Tamariki. These systems ensure students get the help they need to stay in school and secure better futures.

‘Oku mahu’inga ke ma’u ako ‘i he taimi kotoa pē, ke ma’u ha ngāue lelei mo ha kaha’u ‘oku lelei.

O le masani i le alu i le aoga i aso uma e fesoasoani i tamaiti i galuega ma fa'ai'uga fai i le lumana'i .

NZQA External Exams

We know the issue with the digital assessment platform during recent NZQA External Exams has caused disruption and stress for some students. NZQA have asked us to express how sorry they are that this has happened.

NZQA has decided that students experiencing disruption during their Digital Exams will be eligible for a Derived Grade. All work completed in each External Exam will be marked by NZQA. Students will receive the better of their Exam Grade or their Derived Grade. NZQA will also work with us to consider any individual cases where students were particularly affected.

The priority for both Otahuhu College and NZQA is to ensure students are treated fairly, recognising the impact the disruption may have had on their exam.

This highlights the importance of Otahuhu College's systems and policies regarding NZQA External Exams. In particular:

1. Attendance and effort in our Derived Grade Exams at the end of Term 3 – this is the fair and authentic method of gathering evidence in support of a Derived Grade.
2. Senior students remaining at school during Term 4 (NOT on study leave) – allows teachers to gather further authentic, standard specific, evidence during class time to support a student's Derived Grade.

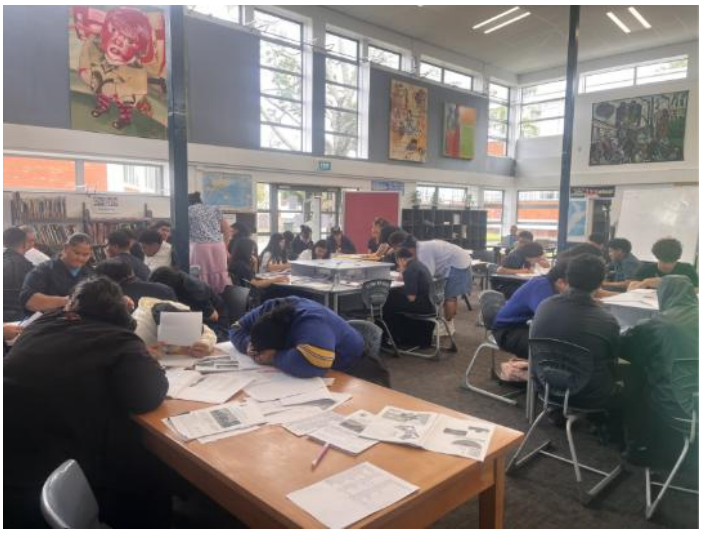
Any questions regarding External Exams should be directed to:

Mr Roberts
Deputy Principal
Principals Nominee to NZQA
sroberts@otahuhucollege.school.nz
Ph: 09 963 4000 ext 4059

FAO – Further Assessment Opportunity

Level 1 Literacy FAO

The Further Assessment Opportunity (FAO) sessions in the library have been going really well, with students showing fantastic engagement and determination. It has been wonderful to see students actively asking and answering questions, seeking support when needed, and putting in their best effort to complete their assessments. The positive attitude and perseverance shown by students have been encouraging to see!







Numeracy FAO – An Important Opportunity for Year 11 and 12 Students

A reminder that our compulsory Numeracy Further Assessment Opportunity (FAO) will take place next week for Year 11 and Year 12 students who have not yet achieved their 10 numeracy credits. The assessment provides students with an opportunity to achieve 5 numeracy credits towards the 10 they need.

Assessment details:

- **Dates:** Monday 23 – Thursday 26 November 2026
- **Time:** All day, Periods 1–5
- **Venue:** Ōtāhuhu College Library
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Attendance on all four days is compulsory. Students involved have been given a hard-copy letter by their whānau teacher, and parents and caregivers have also been emailed the assessment details. A text message reminder will be sent home as well.

Please check in with your child, make sure they know when and where they need to be, and support them to attend all four days and arrive on time, with a calculator and a pen! **All students need 10 numeracy credits to achieve their NCEA Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications, so this is an important opportunity to gain 5 numeracy credits.**

If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Christensen, Academic Navigator – Senior School, at mchristensen@otahuhucollege.school.nz.

Sports News

Our Junior Girls and Boys Volleyball teams recently competed at the Auckland Championships, held at Bruce Pulman Arena. Over two days, both teams played seven games, gaining valuable experience and testing themselves against some of the best school teams in Auckland.

For many of our students, this was their first experience competing in a tournament of this level. Both teams showed great determination, commitment and sportsmanship, giving their best in every game.

Our Junior Boys performed extremely well, finishing in the **top 10 in their division**, a fantastic achievement for the team.

The Junior Girls also had an outstanding tournament. After narrowly missing out in their semi-final, the girls showed great resilience to bounce back and finish the competition in **3rd place**.

We congratulate all our players on their efforts and achievements throughout the tournament. We look forward to seeing the girls back on court at the beginning of 2027 as they move into the Senior competition, where they will continue to develop their skills and gain valuable experience





STEM


Junior Science
Showcase 2026
FIRST ASTRONAUT
Tuesday 1 December 2026 | 3:30-5PM | School Hall
JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON SHOWCASING THE YEAR 9
ANDY YEAR 10 COHORT'S SCIENCE INQUIRY PROJECTS!

Health and Wellness Centre

For students that missed the UoA visit by the optometry team for vision screening, they took a trip into the Grafton campus for their eye exam and selection of frames. This free service is of great value.



The Youth Health Council wanted to celebrate the year 13 leavers as they went on study leave. YHC students created a chill space, treats, and affirmation notes. The vibe was lively, welcoming, and provided an opportunity to awhi our seniors. With appreciation to Eperu and team at Fonua Ola who continue to facilitate the development of our Otahuhu College Youth health council.







School Filming Notice

Please be advised that filming for a NZ movie will be taking place at school on Wednesday 2nd December. Students may be captured in footage.

If you do not wish for your child to be filmed or photographed, please inform the school office at your earliest convenience so we can ensure appropriate arrangements are made.

Thank you for your cooperation.