



Otahuhu College Newsletter

Friday 12 February 2021

From our Principal

Senior students are now settled into their option classes along with our Year 9 and 10 students. The focus this week has been on engagement in lessons. In class and assembly we have talked about the importance of answering questions, asking questions, discussing the work and what is being taught in class. It is great to see going around classes that students are getting better and better at this, their written work is also improving, with answers showing greater detail and more thought. This is all really good. An area we do need to work on is continuing these habits on into homework. Doing regular homework is essential for students to succeed at the level they are capable of achieving.

Parents have asked what is required to pass a NCEA subject. In the old days passing a subject meant gaining 50% or more, these days it involves achieving 14 or more credits. To pass a subject, a student must achieve 14 or more credits at Achieved or Merit or Excellence within a single year, with a minimum of three of these credits from externally assessed standards, and three credits coming from internally assessed standards. (Courses comprising standards from Physical Education and Level 3 Visual Arts are exempt from the second requirement.) This highlights the importance of doing well in external exams at the end of the year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Haka Waiata competition on Thursday.

Important Dates

15 February	Meeting in Library regarding Cultural Performances 2021
18 February	Haka Waiata Competition : Friends and family are welcome in the afternoon.
19 February	Athletics Day
22 February	Prefects Assembly
4 March	Scholars Assembly

26-27 March	90 th Celebration
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Haka Waiata

Haka Waiata will start on Thursday 18 February at 1:30pm on the lower field.

Parking will be on Golf Avenue.

Postponement notification if the weather is poor, will be sent by text and on facebook www.facebook.com/OtahuhuCollegeNews/

Cultural Performances 2021 and the 90th Celebrations

Otahuhu College's 90th reunion is an historic event in which our Cultural groups will perform as a proud display of our culturally rich environment and heritage, as well as a tribute to all our past students that have been in any one of our groups.

With this in mind, Otahuhu College will not be participating in this year's Polyfest. This decision has not been made lightly and we understand that some of our students will be disappointed. Our focus for this year is our school community, our school whanau, past and present. As the longest standing school in South Auckland we have a responsibility to celebrate our cultures to Ōtāhuhu College students past present and future as part of the 90th. To add to the positivity, a few more points this new opportunity presents:

- Students will proudly perform at Otahuhu College's 90th reunion in front of generations of Otahuhu College ex-students and staff
- Students will still be able to celebrate and acknowledge our cultures
- Students will still be able to gain NCEA credits
- Students have the opportunity to modernise and choose items they wish to present
- Students have the opportunity to create larger groups than Polyfest allows, which allows for more student engagement in extra curricular activities
- Families will not have to face financial hardships due to Polyfest requirements

- Our school community will not have to risk a potentially 3rd missed opportunity due to Covid 19 or other external influences, which twice previously has led to substantial time and financial losses
- Family and friends from all over Auckland are welcome to be an audience, free of charge along with several other performances, displays and sporting activities the College has planned
- It is common practice amongst many Auckland schools that participation in Polyfest is a biennial event (every 2 years)
- It is not practical to perform at both our Reunion and Polyfest as - we cannot stop outsiders from recording our fabulous performances, the workload on staff, tutors and students is not feasible and we want our performances to be an enriching performance experience, rather than a distraction to student studies
- And finally, our school will continue to be part of Polyfest in the future once our obligation and duty to honour 90 years of our school heritage has been fulfilled

For any families that may have further questions, we are holding a meeting in the School Library on Monday 15 February at 5.00pm – 6.00pm. This will be led by our Polyfest co-ordinator, Senior Polyfest Teacher leaders and our Principal will also be present. All are welcome to attend and bring forward any discussions you may have.

University Entrance

The minimum requirement to get into university is:

- 10 Level One Numeracy credits
- 5 Level Two Reading credits and 5 Level Two writing credits
- 60 credits at Level Three
- Most importantly, 14 Level Three credits in three university approved subjects

To get into the best courses and to do well at University, then, your child needs to:

- Attend and do well in the external exams

- Have 80 credits in university approved subjects
- Gain wherever possible Merit and Excellence grades

Stem News

This week Y10 learners learned about the structure of DNA in Genetics . They also constructed a model of DNA using lollies, and extracted DNA from bananas:



