



Otago College Newsletter

Friday 30 April 2021

From our Principal

Throughout the holidays over a quarter of the school has been involved in either holiday programmes, sports training, dance performances and Gateway courses. It is great to see so many of our students making the most of the many opportunities that are available for them.

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.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday for the start of the second academic term.

Important Dates

3 May	Term Two Starts
3 – 7 May	XXM Mobile Dentist
11 May	MAINZ Lunchtime Concert
12 May	Team Photos
13 May	Teacher Only Day
20 May	Parent-Teacher Meeting 2.00 - 7.00pm
31 May – 4 June	Samoa Language Week
7 June	Queen's Birthday
9 – 10 June	Performing Arts Roadshow

Our Commitments

Our commitment this week is to be respectful. There are simple ways in which we can encourage our children to be respectful. Using more formal language when talking to adults and in particular staff and visitors to Otahuhu College demonstrates respect. Saying 'Yes' instead of 'yeah', making sure we use please and thankyou regularly. Holding doors open for others to walk through. Wearing the uniform correctly to and from school. All these demonstrate respectful behaviours.

Uniform

Otahuhu College has a proud tradition and we expect students to take pride in wearing their uniform to and from school, and we seek your assistance in getting things right. If your child is unsure of our uniform expectations, please refer them to the Deans. We have a great deal of pride in our achievements and want that reflected in how our students wear their uniform and the pride they have in Otahuhu College.

The uniform is available at NZ Uniforms in Manukau and also available online:
<http://otahuhucollege.nzuniforms.com/catalog/school-uniform-1103685.htmx>

Correct school uniform is to be worn to and from school.

Students must be wearing completely black shoes, for health and safety reasons these must be enclosed shoes. Males are to wear school socks, pulled up. Females plain white socks.

No undergarments (T shirts etc) should be visible, unless a plain white short sleeved top.

There are Otahuhu College hats available, non uniform hats will be confiscated.

If students are wearing incorrect uniform, it is their responsibility to see the Dean first thing in the morning.

Students without a uniform pass will have items confiscated for the remainder of the term.

Start of School Day

- All students need to be onsite by 8:35 am.
- A student who arrives after 9:00am must report to the Deans where they will be signed into school.
- On the third time a student is late after 9:00am, the parents will be asked to meet with the Dean to resolve the issue.
- Further repeated late arrivals to school may result in disciplinary action, including being stood down for continual disobedience.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance means attending school at least ninety percent of the time.

Like other top schools we expect all our students to be at school on time each day. Students should be at school by 8:30am and it is their responsibility to be seated in the correct places for assembly. Your support in making sure your child is at school on time is appreciated.

If your child is going to be late or absent please phone the office 9634000 or alternatively 0800 4 OTAHUHU to leave a message on the absence voice mail before 8:00 a.m. You can also email attendance@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Each day a text message is sent out to families when their child has been marked absent up until 11am. Please reply to this text letting us know where your child is.

There will be times when your child may be absent and for whatever reason the school has not been informed, in this case a note needs to be brought the first day back and given to the whanau teacher.

Traffic Safety for Students, Families and Visitors to OC

Students are to be dropped off either on Mangere Road or Golf Avenue, families are not to drive into the grounds to drop their children at school.

Visitors must park in the visitor carparks as directed by our Security guards.

If these car parks are full then you must park on the road.

The Golf Avenue gates will be closed from 8:30am to 3pm

It is important that we keep our students safe and your support in this matter is appreciated.

Routines at Home for Success

Family life can be very busy with a lot of commitments, so establishing routines together can make sure that your child is best prepared for success.

- Study every day, from the start of each year. This can be as simple as reviewing what was learnt during the day and coming up with good questions to ask the next day.
- Start studying with your difficult subjects first, then move onto your more enjoyable subjects.
- Study in 20-30 minute blocks having a break between each one.
- Phones and other devices should be charged in a common area, so they are not used to distract from study or late at night.
- Get a good night's sleep, teenagers generally need 8 –10 hours sleep a night.

Getting into routines at home for study will help your child succeed.

Community News

Holiday Programme Connection Club Term 1, 2021

Thank you to our students for committing to the holiday programme, for 5 days our students were participated in 'Team Work' 'Perseverance' 'Respect' 'Winning' and 'Term 2' workshops. Sigi-fili Pesaleli will then teach the young men fitness skills and how to stay safe using this cardio technique to their everyday life style. Connection Club would then take the group for a walk at a local reserve and then enjoy lunch in the community within the local district of Auckland.

