



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Important Notices

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Māori Language Week</li><li>- Senior Derived Grades Exams</li></ul>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Last Day of Term 3</li></ul>



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to Benjamin Brown and Jacob Paul who came first and second respectively in the Te Ringa Toi exhibition. With over 400 students and 45 schools competing their success is an immense tribute to both their work and dedication, the support from their classmates and outstanding teaching.

Representing one's school at national competitions and spending a week living and breathing your sport in the team environment is an enriching and memorable experience for our young men and women. For many in Year 13, this is the last time they will play for Ōtāhuhu College. They should be proud of what they have given to their school and their responsibility as role models to those students behind them. Thank you to the many staff and parents who, as the coaches, managers, and support crew, have enabled the students to have this opportunity.

It has been a busy few weeks in the curriculum area at College and our Years 12–13 students are now about to start their derived grade exam week. While the purpose of the exams is not just the outcome, and the importance of practising the process and strategy of exams, the results and feedback from teachers also provide the students with clear messages. A reminder to all Year 13 parents that to Graduate Year 13s must attend their exams.

## 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 Otago 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.

## Senior Derived Grade Exams

Students in Y11 Y12 and Y13 have their Derived Grade Exams next week. These Exams are for all subjects that have NZQA External Exams at the end of the Year. These Exams are extremely important for the following reasons:

1. Students get an opportunity to experience an 'authentic' Exam experience (similar conditions to what they will have in their end of year External).
2. Results will show teachers what areas may need to be focussed on to better prepare students for the end of year External.





- Results will inform students as to whether they need to continue with and/or modify/change the way in which they study and prepare for their Externals.
- Results could be used for derived grade purposes (only students that sit these exams will be eligible to apply for a derived grade at the end of the year).
- Y13 students that wish to Graduate this year must attend and submit work for these exams.

The timetable is below (this was emailed to all students at the end of August and is also displayed around the school):



## Year 11, 12 & 13 Term 3 Derived Grade Exam Timetable

TERM 3 SENIOR DERIVED GRADE EXAMS Week 9 (16th to 20th September)																			
MONDAY 16th Sept.				TUESDAY 17th Sept.				WEDNESDAY 18th Sept.				THURSDAY 19th Sept.				FRIDAY 20th Sept.			
<b>2 HOUR MORNING EXAMS 8:50AM to 10:50AM</b>																			
11DRA	16	HALL	DAN2U	12	A16	11DAN	24	A16	GEO2U	21	HALL	CHE2U	39	HALL					
DRA2U	11	HALL	DAN3U	8	A16	11COM	59	HALL	CHE2U	39	HALL	HIS3U	74	HALL					
DRA3U	1	HALL	11HIS	56	HALL	ACC2U	31	HALL	CHE3U	25	HALL	MAO2U	6	HALL					
HLT3U	27	HALL	HIS2U	48	HALL	ACC3U	17	HALL	MAO3U	7	HALL								
HLT2U	27	HALL																	
	82	HALL		104	HALL		107	HALL		92	HALL		119	HALL					
<b>3 HOUR AFTERNOON EXAMS 11:40AM to 2:40PM</b>																			
GEO3U	17	HALL	SAM3U	18	T6	PHY2U	40	HALL	ECO2U	32	HALL	SAM2U	15	T6					
LIT2U	51	HALL	TON3U	20	T5	ENG3U	47	HALL	ECO3U	18	HALL	TON2U	22	T5					
ENG2U	98	HALL	MAT2U	112	HALL	LIT3C	32	HALL	BIO3U	29	HALL	CAL3U	15	HALL					
			PHY3U	17	HALL							MAT3U	46	HALL					
												BIO2U	50	HALL					
	166	HALL		129	HALL		119	HALL		79	HALL		111	HALL					

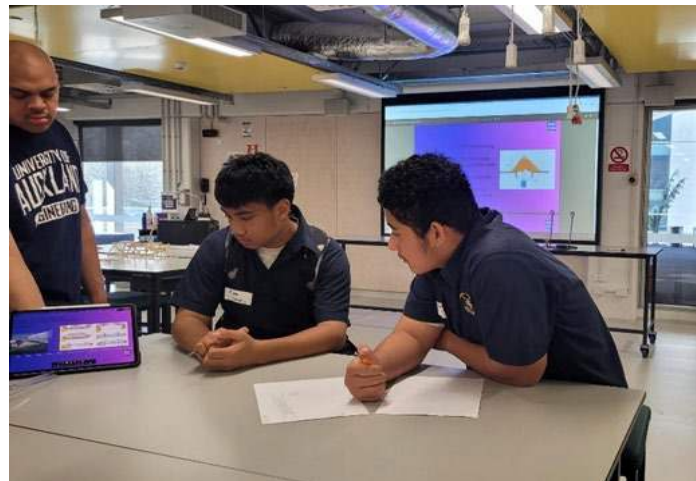
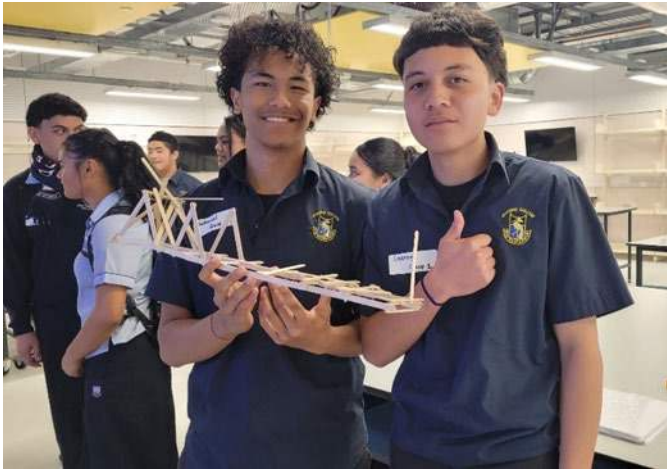
**Note:** Students should attend all timetabled classes when not sitting an Exam  
To Graduate, Y13 students must attend and submit work for all Derived Grade Exams

2hr Exams	8:50am to 10:50am
3hr Exams	11:40am to 2:40pm

## STEM News

Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the Engineering Building at the University of Auckland for a hands-on learning experience about engineering. Throughout the day, they engaged in activities like constructing a popsicle bridge, programming Sphero robots, and developing a water filtration system to make water cleaner. They also attended presentations from engineering professionals who described their everyday tasks and the various projects they work on in the field.





## *Library News*

### **Congratulations to the Term 3 Creative Writing winners:**

1st: Melehifo Niuila, 2nd: Bless Elijah Cadiz, 3rd: Resandy Ah Far

Highly Commended: James Grant, Divya Kumar, Reesha Singh, Yuxuan Gong, Alexis Blair





Commended: Avishek Prasad, Judge Taufelila.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: "Brown Girl, Heavy Heart" by Niuilā, Melehifo  
*They tell me I should shrink,  
Not just my body, but my voice—  
Press it all inside and become PERFECTION  
Something neat and narrow  
Like the expectations they've built for me.*

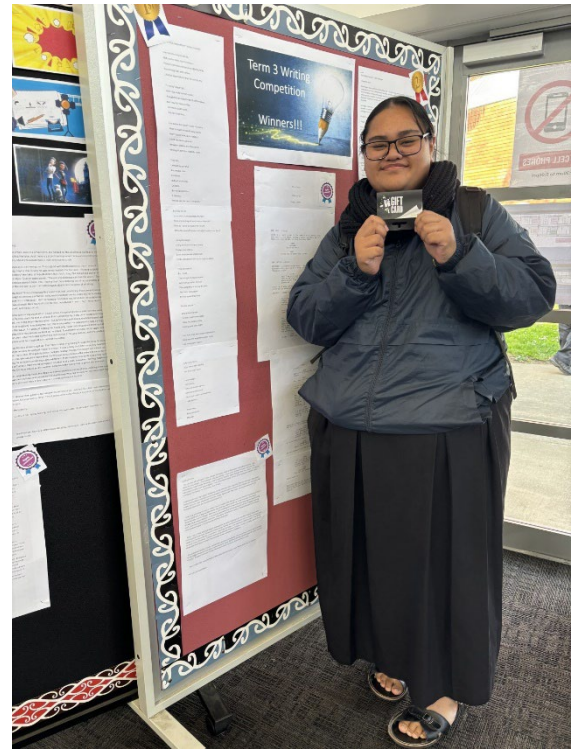
*I'm a big Tongan girl,  
With hips wide like the ocean,  
A laugh that echoes louder than the waves,  
But they tell me to soften,  
Tell me to quiet down,  
Tell me to be less.*

*In a world that doesn't know my worth,  
Where brown skin and heavy hearts  
Aren't celebrated, but criticised,  
I walk between cultures,  
Between oceans and mountains,  
Feeling like I'm too much for both.*

*They say,  
I should be graceful,  
But not too bold.  
Feminine,  
But not too strong.  
Delicate,  
But still powerful—  
A paradox,  
Woven into the fabric of my skin.*

*But how do I fit  
Into a world that expects perfection  
From a body they refuse to see as beautiful?  
How do I carve out space for myself,  
When the space I take up is already too much for them?*

*I carry the weight  
Of my ancestors in these bones,  
Every curve a story,*





*Every stretch mark a testament  
To the resilience that runs through my veins.*

*They don't see it,  
But I feel it—  
The strength of island women  
Who danced under the sun,  
Who sang their truth into the wind,  
And never apologized  
For the space they filled.*

*So why should I?*

*Why should I shrink  
To make them comfortable,  
When my roots run deep  
And my spirit soars high?*

*I am more than their narrow expectations,  
More than the weight they place on me.  
I am oceans and islands,  
A force of nature,  
A girl with a heart too big  
For their small minds.*





*I am Tongan,  
I am proud,  
And I will take up space,  
Until the world learns  
That I don't need their approval  
To be perfect.*

## *OC Writing Club*

This week the OC Writing Club experimented with creating poems by using the titles from spines of novels in the library: here are the results.





	<p>Reboot Sapphire Blue Long way down The screaming staircase The quiet spectacular Feral Words on bathroom walls Dreams of gods and monsters</p> <p>Rishika Prasad</p>
	<p>Scat Drama! Broken Escape</p> <p>Yuxuan Gong</p>
	<p>I am not Esther Only a monster Breathing underwater Upstream Immortal Bugs Chomp Blessings in disguise</p> <p>Brian Wilson</p>
	<p>Children of the rush The woman in white Into the river A dream of lights When will there be good news? Truly like lightning Better the blood Within</p> <p>James Grant</p>





Paycheck  
Owning it  
The soul trade  
Sacrifice  
Lifegame

Ms Duynhoven

## Sports News

Last week, our school had the honor of competing in a national competition with three of our teams. Our Netball Premier Girls participated in the Uniss competition, where they achieved an impressive 5th place in the D grade, earning them a spot in the C grade for next year. A special congratulations goes to Lata Lolesio, who was named to the tournament team in her grade.

Our 1st XIII Rugby League team also had a notable performance at the Nationals, where they faced off against schools from across New Zealand. We're thrilled to announce that Ceasar Bonnar-Rawhiti was selected for the NZ Secondary School U16 Boys Tournament team—an outstanding achievement!

Additionally, our Senior Boys Soccer team competed in the National Satellite Tournament in New Plymouth for the first time. They had a fantastic experience and finished 14th in the competition.

Congratulations to all our teams and players for their hard work and impressive results!








## Study News

## HELP CENTRE

### ENGLISH




**HOMework HELP**

**ASSESSMENT SUPPORT**



**LITERACY SKILLS PRACTICE**

This is a study space where you can get extra help, more practice and additional time to work on skills, homework and assessments.

This is an opportunity for students of all year levels to get extra guidance and support to help them achieve to the best of their ability.



**DETAILS:** Day: Every Thursday  
Time: 3pm-4pm  
Location: OC Library



*Thank you to our sponsors*

