



# Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Important Notices

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 13 Graduation (10:00am start)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Y11, Y12, Y13 End of Year Reports Emailed
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Junior Activities Week
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of 2024 Junior Prizegiving



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

### Celebrating 2024: A Year of Outstanding Achievements

2024 has been a remarkable year for Otago College students. This week, we celebrate their successes, acknowledging the determination and commitment they've shown to overcome challenges. A special congratulations to those who are the first in their families to graduate—your achievements are an inspiration. To our families, thank you for your unwavering support throughout your children's 13 years of schooling.

Academically, our students have excelled, achieving the highest pass rates for internal assessments and record-breaking Merit and Excellence levels. We are confident this will translate to our best-ever university entrance rates. Looking ahead, we must prepare for the new literacy and numeracy requirements, which will require a collective effort from our community to maintain high achievement levels in future cohorts.

This year has also brought significant upgrades to our school facilities. A Block has been renovated, landscaping is complete, and a new Whare will open for Matariki 2025. Additionally, a major investment in our lower fields has been approved.

At Otago College, we are privileged to have dedicated staff who work tirelessly to provide the best education for our students. Together, with our families and community, we continue to build a brighter future.

## Planning Ahead

Next year will see significant changes in the way that the College deals with attendance. We will be required to report to the Ministry of Education any student who misses more than ten days of school in a term, and similarly to Oranga Tamariki if students miss more than 15 days in a term.

### **Upholding Behaviour Standards at Otago College**

Otago College is committed to fostering a safe and respectful learning environment. We remind students and families that physical violence, drug or alcohol use, or any association with related activities are serious breaches of our Behaviour and Discipline Policy. Such actions not only jeopardize the safety and well-being of our community but also put continued enrolment at risk.

Support is available to help students meet behaviour expectations, including access to our Health and Wellbeing Centre and programmes addressing anger management and substance education. However, repeated or severe breaches, such as fighting or involvement with drugs, will result in disciplinary actions, including stand-downs, suspensions, or referral to the Board of Trustees.

We urge our community to work together to maintain high standards and ensure Otago College remains a safe and inclusive space for all.

## Arts and Culture

### HE PANUI

Pō Tuku Taonga 2024

Ki a koutou katoa e ngā rangatahi, he oranga o te ao katoa, kia mau, kia kaha, pupuritia te mana o ngā tūpuna.

Blessed to have been entrusted to guide these rangatahi over the last three years, ngā rangatira o āpōpō. Ahakoa ka mahi tawhiti au ā tērā tau, kei tōku ngākau koutou mō ake tonu atu.

Na Matua Anaru

Māori awards night 2024, kua ea!



### Otago College Taonga Takes Center Stage in New York City

Otago College's exceptional craftsmanship has earned international recognition after a beautiful taonga, created by students, was presented at a prestigious event in New York City. The presentation took place in a conference room opposite the United Nations and was attended by members and the Board of the ChildFund Alliance, along with its Secretary-General.



# ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE

The taonga, adorned with intricate whakairo (carving), symbolizes the values of the Alliance as interpreted by the talented rangatahi (youth) from Otago College. The creators—Freedy, Benjamin, and Jacob—received widespread praise for their artistry and cultural expression, with attendees remarking on the taonga's beauty and significance.

The taonga will now reside permanently at the offices of the ChildFund Alliance Secretariat in New York City. It will serve as a lasting reminder of the values and aspirations of the Alliance and the deep cultural connection shared during this collaboration.

Photographs of the taonga and its presentation have been shared as a testament to the unique contribution of Otago College's students. The school community is invited to celebrate this achievement and reflect on the impact of their rangatahi's work on an international stage.

Expressions of gratitude have been extended to Otago College for their collaboration and efforts in bringing this vision to life.

This extraordinary collaboration highlights the talent and potential of South Auckland's youth while celebrating the power of art to connect communities across the globe.

