



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

### Important Notices

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	ID Photos
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Polyfest Fia Fia Performances
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Polyfest
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term 1



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

What an amazing week at Otahuhu College. It has been wonderful to see everyone arrive at Otahuhu College this term, full of energy and excitement for the year ahead.

The Haka Waiata competition was held on Monday. The leadership of our Year 13 students had been impressive throughout the training period, and the participation and dedication of our students resulted in outstanding performances and a very tight competition. The overall winning house was Grey. Thursday saw our whole College sports day. It was an outstanding success with great participation and stirring competition. The winning house will be announced on Monday. On Friday we announced in assembly our Head Boy, Andy Nguyen and Head Girl, Nardia Dawson, who will be ably supported by both their prefect team and an outstanding group of Year 13 students.

A huge 'thank you' to the all the staff for their dedication in helping the students settle into their routines and study. A new start can be thrilling and challenging, but – with the support of staff and the excellent leadership displayed by our senior students – we are confident that this will be a fantastic year. We have spoken to the students about embracing the opportunities, building friendships, and making the most of everything at Otahuhu College.

## 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.

## 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.*





## Study News

### Health and PE junior Students

We are excited to kick off the year with a range of engaging activities designed to keep our Year 9 and Year 10 students active, healthy, and involved. One of the highlights this term is our focus on being proactive in the pool. We've started the term with two assessment tasks, one of which is centered around drowning prevention in the pool and the other around bones and muscles. We are fortunate to have access to the pool and want to encourage all students to get involved!

Please note that the pool session is compulsory for all Year 9 and Year 10 students. We kindly ask parents to remind students to bring their PE gear and check if they are swimming on any given day. If for any reason your child is unable to swim, they must bring a note and a change of clothes. All students are expected to change for every PE class, regardless of whether they are swimming.

*Looking forward to a great year of learning and fun!*





Tēnā koutou Teachers and Y9 students,

Travelers are back, Vicki and I will be starting the survey with all the Y9 students. So, we are looking forward to inaugurating this process very soon.

The photo we have is from the 2024 Term 4 Travelers class. 6 out of 8 made their graduation.

## *Community News*

Just a reminder that there is to be no use of phones during school hours 830-300





## Sports News

The Girls Volleyball season has kicked off, with our team competing in both the South-East competition for zones and the Premier competition on Friday evenings. The girls have quickly adapted to the challenge of playing twice a week. This year's team is mainly made up of Year 11 players, still developing their skills with guidance from former NZ Volleyball player Margaret Lafaele. Although the results have been mixed, the season has started on a positive note.

In the Premier competition, the girls played four games, showing strong performances despite losses to Mt Albert Grammar School, One Tree Hill College, and Rangitoto College. They fought hard in each match and showed great resilience. The highlight came with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Ormiston College, which was a testament to their determination.

In the Zone competition, the team had a tough start, losing to Howick College (who also competes in the Premier grade) and McAuley High School. However, after focused training and some adjustments to their game strategies, the girls bounced back with convincing wins over Tamaki College and Rosehill College.

We're excited for the upcoming Premier games and are looking forward to being even more competitive as the season progresses!





## HELP CENTRE AND HOMEWORK CLUB



### ENGLISH

#### **HOMEWORK HELP**

#### **ASSESSMENT SUPPORT**

#### **LITERACY SKILLS PRACTICE**

#### **CAA PREP**

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

