



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Important Notices

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

This week we received from the Ministry of Education feedback on how well students do at Otago College. I am very proud to report the following:

- Otago College students gain Level 3 and higher above the national average for all schools.
- Our UE rates for our leavers is more than twice that of other schools from a similar demographic.

While we are very proud of these results, rest assured we will be working hard to provide even better opportunities for your children.

For over ten years Pasifika Futures has been a keen and valuable supporter of our college. Their support and the relationships with other Pacific providers has made an immense contribution to the College and most importantly our families. Unfortunately, with the recent changes to whānau ora funding announced, this too will impact on Otago College. We are working hard on ways to continue to provide the outstanding education and opportunities that your children receive. We are deeply grateful to have been blessed with the support of Pasifika Futures and wish all of their staff and families the very best for the future.

## Our Commitments

Our commitment is to be respectful. A key part of being respectful is using appropriate language. Learning what words, and indeed the volume, you use in different circumstances is one of the challenges of growing up into young men and women. Teenagers find this hard to do, so talking to them and explaining how different situations require the use of different words and mannerisms is a great step on developing articulate respectful young men and women.

## Attendance

Chronic absenteeism has a lifelong impact. Research shows that chronically absent students are far less likely to achieve qualifications and, as adults, earn \$40,000 less annually by age 25. This income gap highlights the importance of addressing absenteeism early.

At Otago College, students who miss 10-15 days in a term are referred to Attendance Services for additional support, while those who miss 15 or more days trigger a referral to Oranga Tamariki. These steps are designed to identify and eliminate the barriers preventing students from attending school. Let's make attendance a priority to safeguard our students' futures.

Ko e fānau 'oku nau li'aki ako ma'u pe'e 'oku mole honau faingamālie ke ma'u ha pa'anga 'oku lahi. E a'afia le lumana'i o tamaiti pe'a le auai i le aoga. E le tutusa tupe e maua a tamaiti e le to'a'aga i le





a'oga ma tamaiti e 'auai i a'oga i aso uma pe'a matutua e tusa ma su'esu'ega a le matagaluega.

## STEM News

On Wednesday 12 March 2025, Year 9 science students embarked on a half-day trip to Buckland Beach Yacht Club for an unforgettable sailing experience. This event is part of the RŪNĀ programme, which provides schools across the nation with sailing opportunities. Students had the chance to feel the wind as they sailed and took part in hands-on activities that introduced them to sailing technologies and essential boating safety. It was an exciting outing for our students, marking their first sailing adventure!







## Arts and Culture News

### **POLYFEST PRACTICES**

We are pleased to announce that we're entering 6 groups into Polyfest this year. Māori, Filipino, Fijian, Cook Island, Tongan and Samoan groups. Practice times are subject to change, but for now our practices





are:

**MAORI GROUP** – Saturdays 9-5pm @ the Pavillion

**COOK ISLAND GROUP** – Tue – Fri 3.30pm to 5.30pm, Saturdays 9-4pm @ Dance & Drama

**FIJIAN GROUP** – Mon-Fri 3-5pm @ T13, Saturdays 10-2pm

**FILIPINO GROUP** - Mon-Fri 3-5pm @ the Pavillion

**TONGAN GROUP** – Mon/Wed/Fri 3.30pm to 5.15pm @ Turf, Tue/Thu 3.30pm to 5.15pm @ School Hall, Saturdays 10-2pm

**SAMOAN GROUP** – Mon/Wed/Fri 3.30pm to 5.30pm @ School Hall, Saturdays 10-4pm. Friday 21 & 28 March 6pm to midnight (21<sup>st</sup> in School gym, 28<sup>th</sup> in School hall)

OTAHUHU COLLEGE

# KUKI GROUP

## *Fia Fia Night*

### FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Join us for a night of celebration,  
singing, dance, food  
AND SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE

# TAMAARU DANCE TROUPE

FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY, 21ST MARCH

START 6 PM

OTAHUHU COLLEGE HALL





## Sports News

### **Auckland Rugby Masterclass**

Masterclass Series Purpose: A High-Performance skill development program direct to the player participant.

This is aimed at giving our school rugby players a higher learning development opportunity to improve their skills of the game. Auckland Rugby High Performance staff will come to deliver Upskill sessions direct to our female and male participants. They will also allow a small bit of coach development; however, this is not the focus of the sessions merely a by-product of what is being delivered. This skill development opportunity is targeted for all our Junior & Senior school rugby participants.

Otago College Rugby Fields - 51 Mangere Road, Auckland, 1062  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 3:30pm-5:00pm

- Tackle and Contact area Masterclass - Boy's specific
- Tackle and Contact area Masterclass - Girl's specific
- Scrum & Lineout Masterclass - Boy's - Forwards specific
- Scrum & Lineout Masterclass - Girl's - Forwards specific

## 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

