



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 21<sup>st</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 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Teacher Only Day (no school)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term 1



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Our sports teams are doing well in the summer terms, with the latest result seeing Kilikiti finishing second in the Auckland competition. Next week our Basketball and Volleyball teams are competing in their tournaments.

Attendance has been consistently above the national average for the last three weeks, and about ten percentage points higher than schools from similar communities. Messaging the school or writing notes to explain any absences helps as does scheduling appointments outside school hours when possible.

Academically our students are sitting on a 93% pass rate for internals so far. The work our teachers and students do both in the classroom and through homework and tutorials all contribute to these good results. The cumulative effect of all this effort is impressive.

## Our Commitments

For our students to be engaged in their own education, they must be encouraged to read, ask questions, actively engage in discussions, write and learn to think critically about challenging material. Every mistake our students make, every question they ask, and every time they successfully struggle with a concept, their brain grows a little bit stronger and smarter.

Each week our students receive an engagement grade based on a 1 to 5 scale. To get a 5, students need to attempt all classwork and homework and consistently strive to produce work at or above the level expected from this pupil as indicated by past academic results. You can help by encouraging your child to do homework work, and independent study. Encourage your child to always participate in class discussions, by volunteering to ask and answer questions.

## 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

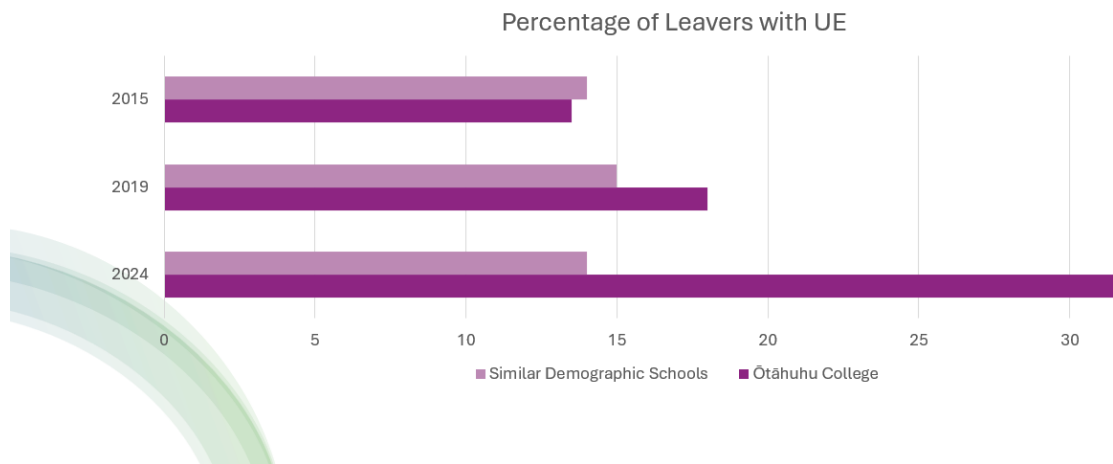




additional support, while those who miss 15 or more days trigger a referral to Oranga Tamariki. These steps are designed to identify and eliminate the barriers preventing students from attending school. Let's make attendance a priority to safeguard our students' futures.

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.

## School Leavers with University Entrance



Academically the performance of our students has seen significant and steady improvement.

## Community News

### Otago College ID Cards

Students who wish to have an ID card need to

- Have had their photo taken on Thursday at school
- Prepay the card \$15 at the book shop/ Student services, cash or Eftpos
- Once they have paid their order will be placed.

The ID cards are made off site and take several weeks after the photos have been taken to be printed. Cards have value to students who need a legal form of identification e.g. for bank services, Hop cards, and driver's license testing. They are also proof for student discounts.



## Junior School

### Year 9 Attendance

Congratulations to all the students on their continued efforts to maintain 100% attendance. Progress is made, academically and in personal worth, when a student attends all school days and lessons on time. Many of our students were able to demonstrate this commitment last week and, as promised, all their names went into a hat for their whānau class. The winner drawn from each class will be taking home a \$50 Caltex petrol voucher for their families, as a thank you for your continued support and encouragement in your child's education. The winners are listed below:

Whānau	Name	Whānau	Name
G9	Lepeka Faingaanuku	H9	Jirah Talosaga
G10	Siba Baker	H10	Falesiu Filiahefanga
M9	Rhiannon Apulu	S9	Aiden Autaua
M10	Ra-Shiv Chand	S10	Sepuloni Tupou
M11	Fane Lasike	TTR1	Pennie Takiari

For the first time in a VERY long time, Year 12 stole the top spot for the highest attendance from Year 9 last week. We need to claim this back!

### Year 9 Polyfest Poster Competition

Next week will be the final week for students to work on the development of their Polyfest poster during whānau time. The deadline is Tuesday, April 1st. A winner from each whānau class will be judged and selected by Ms. Norgate and the Year 9 whānau teachers. The winners will get to choose to attend either a day trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island or the Auckland Stardome Observatory!

## Senior School

### Level 3 Business Studies

Congratulations to *Sonny Stewart-Samuels* on being selected to attend the Young Enterprise 2025 Young Navigators event during the Term One school holidays. Sonny has been chosen not only to represent Ōtāhuhu College but also the Auckland region—an incredible achievement.

With over 5,000 students currently enrolled in the Young Enterprise course, being selected is a testament to Sonny's hard work, dedication, and positive attitude. The event will provide him with an exciting opportunity to engage in innovation, business, and team- building experiences.



## Arts and Culture News



Agnes Ta'amai (Year 12)

## Sports News

This year's kilikiki tournament was held at Kolmar sports complex. We entered a full boys and girls team to participate. The competition was fierce. The girls played 2 games where they won against Rosehill College and lost against Westlake Girls.

The boys also played two game, where they won against Manurewa High and lost against Alfriston College. Both teams managed to play in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the girls missed out losing to Marist Girls and the boys advanced to the finals, after winning against the defending champs Kelston Boys.

Our boys were up against Papatoetoe High in the finals. By this time, the weather started to change dramatically. Our boys batted first and was able to get 25 runs from 30 balls. Papatoetoe High managed to get 26 runs from 26 balls. It was a nail biting final. Thanks to Mr Tupe and Ms Pulusi for their expert coaching and preparing this years' teams.



## **Volleyball**

Last week, our senior volleyball teams competed at the Auckland Championships alongside 65 other schools. The senior boys team were lucky enough to win all their games and finish 1st in their division. In addition to this achievement, the boys team were also awarded the John Hall Memorial Cup, also known as the Wairua Cup. The Wairua Cup, is an annual award presented by College Sport. It serves as a lasting tribute to John Hall's legacy, inspiring future generations to strive for excellence both on and off the field. It recognizes the outstanding contribution of a secondary school that exemplifies excellence in sports, leadership, and community involvement. The recipients of the Wairua Cup are celebrated not only for their achievements in sports but also for their roles as positive ambassadors for their school and community.



Senior boys' volleyball team pictured with Wairua Cup

Congratulations to the team for the mahi that you have done to strengthen the sporting culture here at OC. A big thank you as well to our manager Ms Manase, for your unwavering support.

- Ms 'Ofanoa

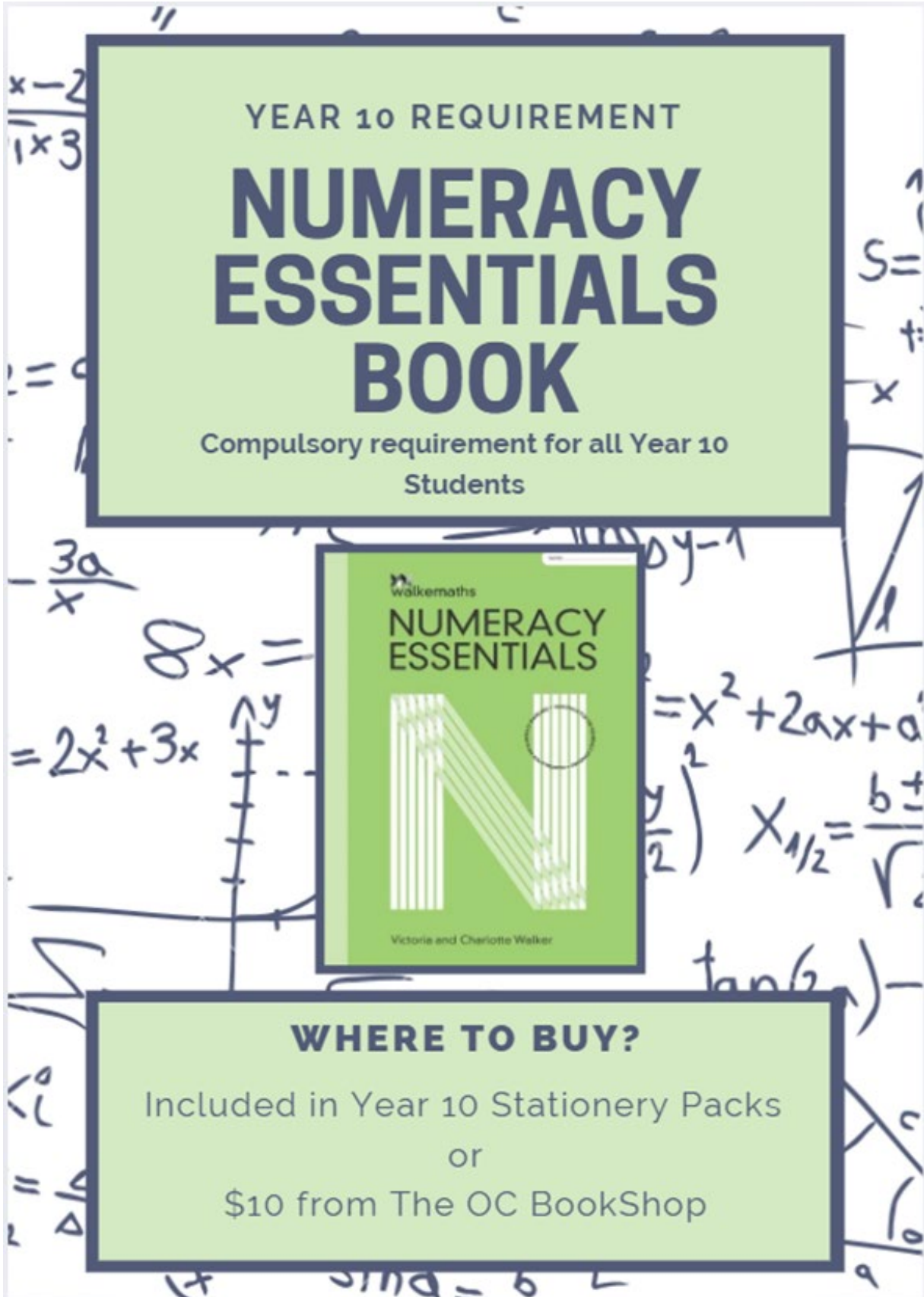


## Study News

### English Help Centre

Congratulations to all those students who are taking advantage of English Help Centre after school on Thursdays (and other days by prior arrangement). Last week, a number of studious Year 12 English pupils made use of after-school time to refine and place the finishing touches on their 2.10 assessments; we look forward to marking these and rewarding the students for their efforts very shortly!

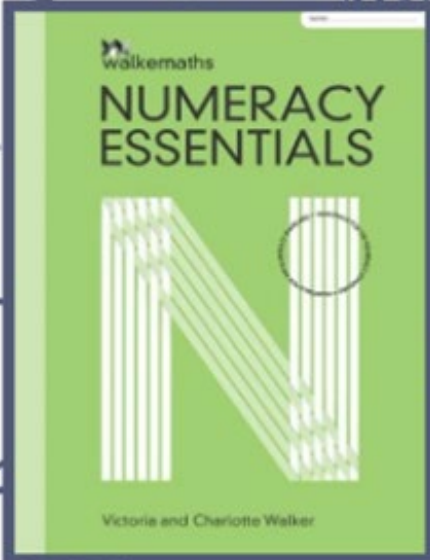




**YEAR 10 REQUIREMENT**

# NUMERACY ESSENTIALS BOOK

Compulsory requirement for all Year 10 Students



**WHERE TO BUY?**

Included in Year 10 Stationery Packs  
or  
\$10 from The OC BookShop





## 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

