



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 7th March 2025

Important Notices

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



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

This week has been a busy week for all students. Polyfest practices are going well, while at the same time preparation for the winter sports season is well underway. Importantly, most senior students have nearly completed their first assessments for the year and will be looking forward to finding out their results and also looking at ways they can improve for next time.

This is a good opportunity to explain the difference between Achieved, Merit and Excellence grades. Getting higher grades is not just a matter of getting more things right, though that does help. The key is the level of thinking which is demonstrated. There are some differences between subjects however in general, an Achieved grade means that you can describe the topic. To get a Merit you need to be able to explain, looking at reasons why something happens. While to get an Excellence you need to be able to analyse, make comparisons and draw links between different topics. One way of looking at it is if you can describe what a family member looks and acts like you get an achieved, if you can explain why they act that way then it's a Merit, and if you can show how their actions affect the family and how the wider family responds then that is an Excellence.

Our Commitments

The behaviour focus for next week is on being supportive. This means more than just talking to our children about treating others like they would want to be treated. It also means being supportive in learning. School is, and should be challenging, the work must require thought, and mistakes have to be made if learning is to happen. A key part of being supportive at Otago College is based around supporting each other in our learning, making mistakes and working hard to do better next time.

Attendance

Did you know that chronically absent students, by the time they are 25 years old, earn an average of \$40,000 less per year than their peers who regularly attended school? Missing school doesn't just affect students' academic progress—it impacts their long-term career opportunities and financial stability.

At Otago College, we take absenteeism seriously and intervene early to prevent long-term consequences. Students who miss 10-15 days in a term are referred to Attendance Services, while those with 15 or more days absent are reported to Oranga Tamariki. These measures ensure that students and their families get the support they need to prioritize attendance. Let's work together to secure brighter futures for our students.

Ko e fānau 'oku nau nofo mei he akó, ko e ki'i pa'anga si'isi'i pē 'oku nau ma'ú, \$40,000 'o a'u ki he'enau ta'u 25. Koia ai, ma'u ako 'i he 'aho kotoa pē ke ma'u ha kaha'u 'oku lelei.





Ua fa'amaonia i su'esu'ega o tamaiti e le to'a'aga i le a'oga e maua se tupe itiiti e \$40,000 i le tausaga i le taimi e 25 ai tausaga le matua. E fa'aluaina ma fa'atoluina lea seleni pe'a to'aga i le a'oga i le taimi e aulia ai le 25 tausaga. To'aga i le aoga i aso uma mo se lumana'i manuia.

Junior News

YEAR 9 COMPETITION TIME

We have a few incentives running throughout Term 1 for the Year 9 students, and next week could be the wider whānau who are the winners!

WEEK 7 100% Attendance – 10 x \$50 petrol vouchers up for grabs!

To be in with a chance to win, Year 9 students must have a perfect attendance record next week. This means being present for all scheduled classes, being present and seen by the whānau teacher at every assembly, each whānau time and not being late to any classes.

Eligible students will be entered into the draw and 10 names will be pulled out of a hat during the next assembly to take home this gift to their families.

Polyfest Poster competition – March

During whānau time, students are being given space and time to create a poster which advertises a cultural performance taking place at Polyfest50. Students can complete this on A4 or A3, on the computer, in a collage form, painting, however they like! But they must follow the brief with the requested information.

The top 10 submissions, as selected by the Year 9 Dean and whānau teachers, will get to choose from:

- a. Day trip to Tiritiri Matangi island
- b. A visit to Auckland's Stardome and observatory

Deadline – Monday 1st April

Arts and Culture News

MUSIC LESSONS

If you were not already aware, we offer free music lessons. We have spaces in Violin (would be great if you owned your own violin), Drums, Guitar and Piano. Please see music staff to sign up. First in, first served!

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





ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE

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 (21st in School gym, 28th in School hall)



Visual Art

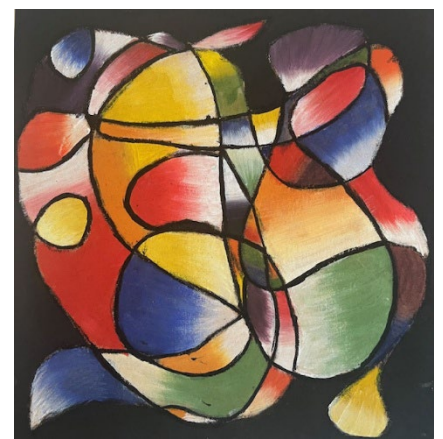
Year 10 pupils learnt about colour and colour mixing while creating some wonderful abstract artworks.



Kaya Brown



Jerome Gueco



Ayla Clement-Gibson

Health and Wellness Centre

The school is fortunate to have a team of people on site to look after our student's wellbeing. Both physical and emotional health. Free of cost! As always, please feel free to talk to us if you have any concerns about your young person's health: Ph 09 9634081

A big thank you to the student Health Council for providing water stations at Haka Waiata and promoting drinking water over the past few weeks. In this hot weather, drinking water really helps to keep you performing at your best and it is great to see so many students with their water bottles.

BENEFITS OF DRINKING WATER





Next week, the nurses will start to catch up with all the Year 9 students for a general mini health check. This is part of the school nurse contract in all the health funded schools throughout NZ and happens throughout the year. The nurses ask the students about their health and wellbeing including a vision and hearing test. If you do not want your child to have this Year 9 check just ring and let us know. Likewise, let us know if you want your child's vision or hearing checked urgently or if your child has health issues you want to discuss privately with the nurses.

In Term 2, the Auckland University vision screening team will come and check all the Year 9's eyesight. The students who don't pass the vision test get seen by optometrists here at school and if they need glasses they are free.

Study News

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

