



# Ōtorohanga College

Ko te mana mō mua i te whakamana  
Honour before Honours

Principal: Ms Traci Liddall Dip Tchg, Dip TEFL, BA, PGDip Ed, M Ed (hons)

19 November 2020

Kia ora e te whānau

As the school year nears its end, we offer our congratulations and best wishes to our senior students who are about to enter their examination period. We also acknowledge our Y13's who are about to step out into their adult lives which holds countless exciting opportunities and possibilities for them. Thank you, seniors, for being an incredibly special part of the fabric of our College and for being wonderful ambassadors of the College and to our junior students; we are proud of you all. We know that the Ōtorohanga College values of Honour Yourself, Honour Others and Honour Your Environment will serve you well throughout your life. Congratulations also to all the students who earned their positions in the 2021 student leadership team at Prizegiving last week.

The Board met at the end of October for our normal monthly meeting. At the meeting we welcomed Emily O'Reilly and we bid a sad farewell to Emma Rye. Emily, as with other Student Trustees, will be an important link with students; bringing forward student voice to our Board discussions and decisions to shape our strategy that affects students. Emily has already undertaken professional development and is an enthusiastic and thinking member of our BOT.

## **Staffing**

After five years of being a much valued and adored member of staff, Annette Cumpstone has left the College to pursue permanent employment. Annette had a special relationship with many of our students with different abilities and she will be missed by all; go well Annette.

Our search for a permanent Head of Faculty Mathematics continues. The current round of applications for this position closes 20 November. We will update you regarding any appointments made to this position.

In our last update we acknowledged the important work undertaken by Mr Paul Matthews who was our Limited Statutory Manager since late 2018. We are pleased to advise that the BOT successfully negotiated with the Ministry of Education to continue having Paul's support at the College, as an advisor. This was to ensure a smooth transition from his role as LSM and for the BOT to take on our full employer responsibilities.

## **Casual Vacancy**

At our October meeting the Board resolved to fill the current casual vacancy by selection. As advertised on Facebook, if 10% of eligible voting parents wish to hold a by-election then they must advise accordingly by 3pm on the 26th November. If the 10% threshold is not reached, we will select a person to fill the casual vacancy.

## **Finance**

The financial result for the nine months ending 30 September is a surplus of \$220,100, well ahead of the budgeted deficit of \$30,000 for the same period. Again, this is due to large unbudgeted funds received. With our finances well and truly on track, we mark another milestone with the removal of the MOE appointed Finance Advisor, Santjie Stols, who has worked with the BOT and school management since 2016 when significant financial concerns were found. We now 'fly solo' with our employment and finance roles which is a testament to the hard work and stoicism shown by many people over the last four years.

Our 2021 draft budget will be presented to the BOT at our November meeting and we are also working on a 3 - 5 year forecast to ensure the continued financial stability and growth of the College. Expenditure on curriculum resources and assets that enhance teaching and learning continue to be our priority in future budgets.

## **Website and Policy**

The new Ōtorohanga College website is now 'live' at <https://www.otocoll.school.nz/>. It offers a fresh take on events, news, and activities at the College. As part of our commitment to improving communication and links with our community, the school community will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the website design and functionality early 2021.

The website also allows access to our BOT policies which are under a three-year cycle of review. These can be accessed here: <https://www.otocoll.school.nz/our-kura>.

## **Education Review Office**

The ERO will be completing their longitudinal review of Ōtorohanga College this year before a new review platform commences within the ERO in 2021. The ERO's visit is scheduled for early December and will include input from the BOT, staff, students, and school management. Based on previous reviews, areas identified for the current review are:

- improving internal evaluation systems and processes.
- developing consistent assessment practices to effectively track and monitor student progress and achievement.
- developing a clear understanding and consistent implementation of the school's pastoral care system.
- developing a more engaging curriculum.

The ERO has advised that the most likely sources of information for the above are based within the school. When the College moves out of its current review phase, the input from parents will be actively sought by the ERO team and the parent community. The report will be available to the public after the Christmas break.

## **BOT Owned Properties**

The BOT owns four residential properties located around town. At our November meeting the BOT decided to place these rental properties under the management of our local Harcourts branch. The Board considered this move to be an important step towards allowing the school leadership to continue their focus on improving outcomes for students and staff.

We enter the season chock-a-block full of food, festivities, and fun with our families. What a year it has been for us all!

We hope this update finds you well and counting down to a well-deserved break.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal tail.

**Lorraine Fox**

**Ōtorohanga College Chairperson**

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On behalf of the Ōtorohanga College Board of Trustees

Traci Liddall, Emily O'Reilly, Chris van der Heyden, Shani Whitiora, Kelly Isherwood, Michael Ritch, and Mark Pitts-Brown.