



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)

17th September 2021

Kia ora e te whānau

Re: Community Update

COVID19 Lockdown

The recent Lockdown was swift and felt acutely by all. We do hope that you all got through the Lockdown safe and well, and that students are enjoying being back to their 'normal' at school under the guidance of our very caring and capable staff. From day one, staff at the College were energised and poised to provide the highest possible level of support to students and families, under very trying circumstances. As with their response to the Lockdown in 2020, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all staff for their relentless support for students, especially in recent weeks. Thank you to you all; this mahi and aroha never goes unnoticed.

After many hours of preparation invested into the College Production, it was most disappointing for all to have that postponed due to Lockdown, however, we look forward to the Production being held in Week 10. Also, during Lockdown families were kept up to date by the Leadership Team regarding changes to the College's Derived Grade Examinations, NCEA Learning Recognition Credits and changes to the dates for NZQA's examinations at the end of the year. For further information, please contact Mrs Lyndsay Kurth at kurthl@otocoll.school.nz.

Elections

Nau mai, haere mai! As advised, we are thrilled to have welcomed Jaimee Tamaki, Kim Ingham and Duncan Coull to the Board as the successful candidates of the Board by-election. We look forward to continuing working with Jaimee, Kim and Duncan to ensure every student is able to achieve their educational potential. We offer our sincere gratitude to all of those who put their names forward. The calibre of nominees was extremely high and we would have been proud to work alongside any one of them. We would also like to thank Seilala Makasale for her work as Returning Officer.

The next triennial elections will take place in May 2022 and all Boards will be looking for skilled, community minded and big picture thinkers to sign up. We encourage those who were not elected during this by-election to again consider putting themselves forward, to continue offering diversity at the College's governance table and beyond. You can find out more about Board membership and the role of the Board here:

<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/assets/Publications/Making-A-Difference-booklet-2019.pdf>

The last BOT meeting was held on the 30th of August and we offer the following updates:

Staffing

We sadly farewell Mrs Rebecca Rapley, our amazing Head of Department of English. Rebecca has been pivotal in strengthening the English curriculum. We wish Rebecca all the very best for her next adventures. We will miss her and we thank her for her contribution to the College.

We are pleased to advise that Mr Romano Manuel has been appointed to this position. Mr Manuel comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge and has taught in this role for many years. He and Mrs Rapley know each other well and are working collaboratively to ensure the handover is smooth for students and teachers alike.

STE Elections

The Student Trustee Elections have been delayed due to the COVID19 Lockdown. The election process is still being finalised at the College so we will continue to advise of progress accordingly.

This is an amazing opportunity for students to have their voice heard at the Board table where student agency is sought and valued. In this short video Student Trustees speak of their experiences of being on their school's Board of Trustees: <https://vimeo.com/451727567>

Board Matters

The Board held an Extraordinary Meeting on the 15th September 2021. At that meeting I (Lorraine) resigned from my role as Chair/Presiding Member. I have also tendered my resignation from the Board from 1st October 2021. I feel excited and sad that I am leaving the Board especially as new, very capable and enthusiastic Board members join the ranks. In May this year I commenced studies in Real Estate. Having completed those studies, and having accepted a position with Ray White in Ōtorohanga earlier this year, I must step aside from the Board so I can put all of my energies into my new career which will commence within the next few weeks. The role of Board member has been equally challenging and rewarding, and it has been a great privilege to be the Presiding Member of the Ōtorohanga College Board since 2018. I wish the College leadership, and all students, all the very best, and I offer my final sincere thanks to all within the College community who are determined to ensure the College continues to grow in strength.

Duncan Coull was elected as the new Chair/Presiding Member. The Board is putting in place a leadership plan which will further strengthen its capability and further updates will follow on the Board's leadership structure. In the meantime the Board is focused on fulfilling its responsibilities with a clear focus on supporting the Principal to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students' learning journey. On behalf of the Board we thank Lorraine for her tireless efforts and wish her well as she embarks on her new journey in Real Estate.

With Lorraine's resignation comes a casual vacancy on the Board. The Board will decide how best to fill this casual vacancy at an upcoming meeting and will advise accordingly.

Noho ora mai, stay well.



Lorraine Fox
Ex Presiding Member



Duncan Coull
New Presiding Member