



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)

9 February 2021

Kia ora e te whanau, students, families and staff of Ōtorohanga College

We warmly welcome you all to the new school year at Ōtorohanga College, especially those new families who are joining us for the first time; it is great to have you with us.

At the end of last year, we had no staff resignations, the most important indicator of a settled and focused teaching and leadership team. We sincerely thank and honour all members of staff for their dedication to students and for seeing through some significant changes at school in recent times. With that in mind, 2021 is our year. Our year to consolidate and deliver on our strategy and the changes put in place to enhance student learning, wellbeing, and our students' wider school experience - the 'turnaround strategy' for our College.

We start the academic year with a roll of 298 students which is higher than the Ministry of Education 2021 predictions of 278 and it is on par with our roll at the start of the 2020 academic year. Our roll is holding which is excellent news on many fronts including that our 2021 budget was based on the MOE predictions. An increased roll means an increase in funding and more options for how we can resource the further development of our strategy.

Ko te tamaiti te pūtake o te kaupapa | The child – *the heart of the matter*.

Principal's Performance Agreement

Thank you to those parents, students and staff who fed into this process by talking with Traci's appraiser late last year. Traci's appraisal report has been accepted by the BOT and Traci's professional and personal goals are being set up now, as is her Performance Agreement for 2021. As for every Principal, this is an ongoing and evolving process undertaken in full cooperative collaboration with our Principal, Traci Liddall.

Staffing

You will already know that after six application rounds and Traci's stoic persistence, Mr Stoffel Wilken was appointed as the permanent Head of the Mathematics Faculty. Stoffel specialises in Mathematics and Science (Biology). He comes to us from Cambridge High School and formerly South Africa. He brings with him considerable experience in teaching junior Science and senior Biology at Cambridge High School and senior level Mathematics and Science (Biology) in South Africa. Stoffel also teaches senior level Automotive Technology. He has extensive experience in school and curriculum management and wider school development.

We thank Stoffel for choosing Ōtorohanga College and we are confident that he will make a considerable contribution to the educational lives of our students and the wider team at Ōtorohanga College. We extend a very warm welcome to you and your family, Stoffel!

Finance

For the month ended 31 December 2020 we have a surplus of \$291,800 which is well ahead of the breakeven budget for the year. This is largely due to the large unbudgeted secondary tertiary programme funding

received. This surplus leaves us in a good position to pay back debt and refocus on better resourcing in several areas.

Free Food in Schools Programme

Last year we advised that the Food in Schools Programme was aimed at being rolled out from the start of this academic year, but this has not yet come to fruition. We are awaiting further information and notification from the Ministry regarding this. We apologise for not being able to provide any further details on the programme and when it may start, but we will do so when further information comes to hand from MOE.

Charter Development

With all the challenges that 2020 brought for us, the Board has extended Strategic Goal 3: Whanaungatanga, to be more deliberate and explicit in our rolling out of wellbeing programmes and resourcing at the College. This strategic goal has become:

Whanaungatanga: Building Positive Partnerships for Learning *and Wellbeing*.

This means that the College leadership will continue strengthening wellbeing programmes and introduce new strategies to keep wellness central to its teaching and learning practises. Our Charter and revised Annual Plan (our most important guiding document) is due at the MOE early March. You can hear more on Traci's thoughts on wellbeing and support for our whaanau at our College here:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018781722/mental-wellbeing-top-priority-as-schools-reopen>

Casual Vacancy

Another casual vacancy exists on the Board of Trustees after our newest trustee's personal circumstances changed, meaning he was unable to continue on the BOT. We thank Anthony Wanoa for stepping in for the period he was appointed, since November 2020.

We will be deciding how to fill this casual vacancy, by selection or by-election, at the BOT's February meeting. We have contacts in the community working with us to fill this casual vacancy that is at an important stage of the College's turnaround. The following are what we see as important skills and attributes for a new trustee to bring to the BOT - ideally, we need someone who:

- is an optimistic and big picture thinker who can support the College leadership to advance the College's strategic goals;
- can commit, and contribute strategically, to every meeting and what is technically and administratively required in the role (ie, being electronically responsive);
- understands finances at a high level (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, anomalies etcetera);
- is a supportive team player and not afraid to question;
- can follow and respect correct process, policy and confidentiality; and,
- understands the educational and social needs of our Māori students and communities.

Please contact me directly if you have any queries about trusteeship, or, you can find out more here: <https://www.nzsta.org.nz/understanding-the-work-of-the-board/>.

ERO Review

The ERO report will be completed after the ERO makes a final visit to the College at the end of T1. The confirmed report is aimed at being available in the latter stages of T2.

Air Conditioning Units

After some initial issues with the supply of units, Mr Tony Russell called in several favours from folk across the country so that all three air conditioning units would be installed and operating in A Block for the beginning of the school year. Thank you, Tony!

Communication

With all avenues of social media available to communicate with people 24/7, there is an understandable temptation to touch base with me via my private messaging service and outside of normal business hours. I offer a friendly reminder that the correct and appropriate way to communicate with me regarding any College governance matters (including complaints) is via my College email address: botchair@otocoll.school.nz.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Ngā mihi nui



Lorraine Fox

Ōtorohanga College Chairperson

0276644087 | botchair@otocoll.school.nz

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.