

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Three, Week Nine
Monday 14th September – Friday 18th September 2026

ENGLISH

FACULTY

Term Three has seen the English Faculty working extremely hard to prepare both senior and junior students for their Derived Grade Examinations and Common Assessment Activities (CAAs). Alongside these major assessment milestones, teachers and students have been wrapping up internal assessments and preparing for exciting new units of work for Term Four.

Juniors

Crafting Voices and Analysis

Writing has been the core focus of learning for juniors throughout Term Three. Students have centred their work around responses to visual texts, novels and formal speech writing. Through various film studies and novel studies junior classes have been examining visual techniques and mastering the art of essay writing. They have also been establishing analytical skills that will serve them well in future years.

Exam Preparation and University Entrance Pathways

Seniors' learning has centered on exam preparation and pathway planning for next year and beyond.

Exam Preparation: Senior students are putting in dedicated effort toward preparing for their Derived Grade Examinations and CAAs, honing both content knowledge and exam strategies. These vital exams are essential in ensuring our students, who may not be able to attend their external exams in November, are adequately covered by their Derived Examination grade. The preparation that has been put in now will stand our students in good stead for our external preparation.

Level 2 and UE Credits: Our Level 2 classes have focused heavily on securing their University Entrance (UE) English credits. Learning activities have centred around developing writing portfolios and executing research tasks.

Academic achievement relies on a strong partnership between the College and home. As our senior students lock in their portfolio work and study for examinations, we encourage parents and whānau to engage with their learners at home:

- Ask students about the progress of their writing portfolios and research projects.
- Help create dedicated study spaces and routines for exam prep.
- Celebrate the effort and progress made throughout Term Three.

We look forward to continuing this positive momentum into Term Four.



Empowering learners to succeed

Māori Language Week

Ake, Ake, Ake – A Forever Language

Theme and Focus

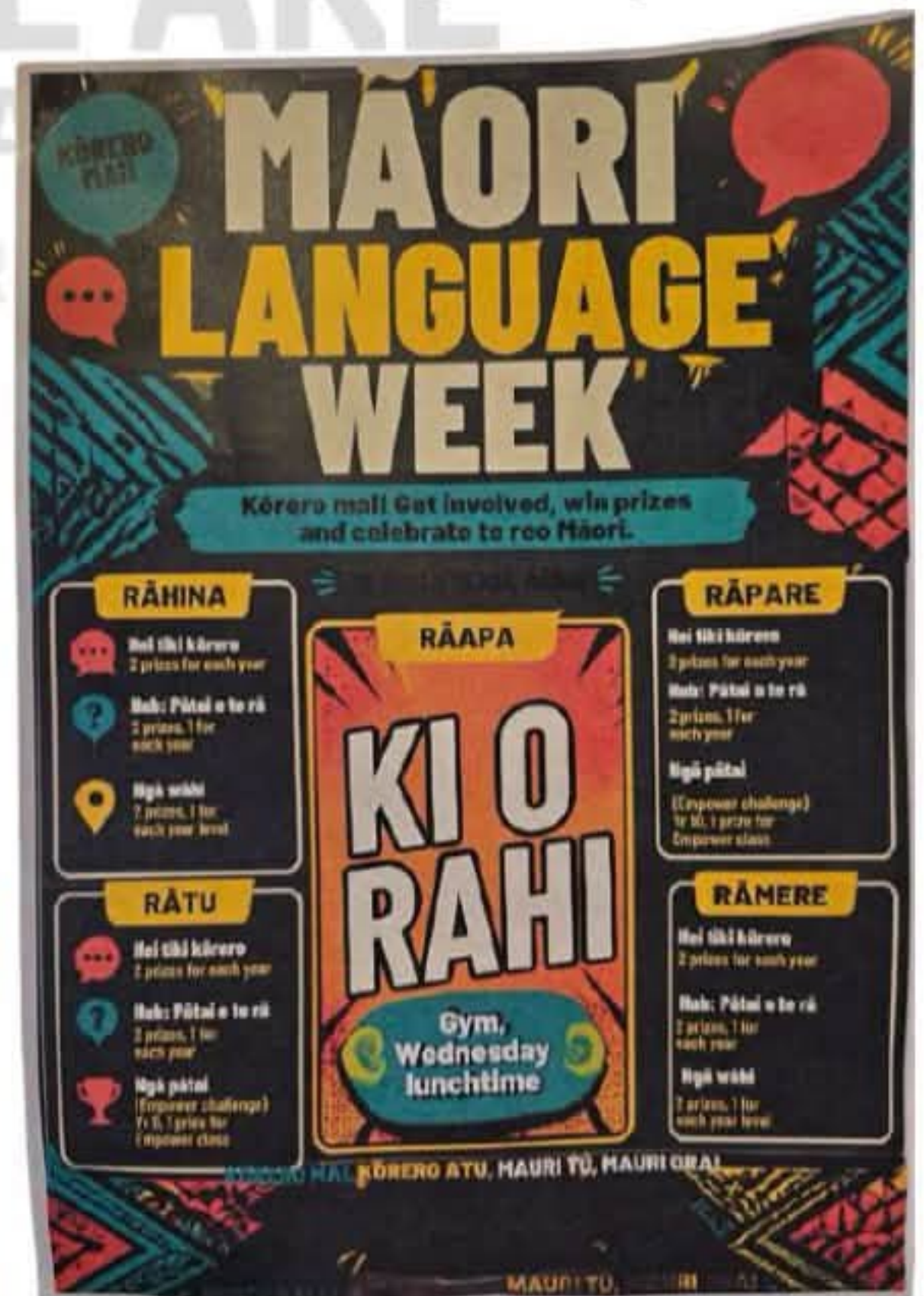
- **Official Theme:** Ake, Ake, Ake – A Forever Language.
- **Community Focus:** This year highlights Te Reo Towns, celebrating local communities and towns that keep the language alive every day.
- **History:** The week commemorates the historic 1972 Māori Language Petition presented to Parliament.

What a fantastic week it has been celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Māori across our College community! Our taura (students) threw themselves into every activity, bringing incredible energy and putting their reo into practice every day.

Highlights from the Week

- **Tiki Reo Māori Hunt:** Our Tiki Reo Māori was spotted out and about around the College grounds! Taura were encouraged to take a step outside their comfort zone and strike up a kōrero whenever they spotted the Tiki to go into the draw for awesome prizes.
- **Pātai o te Rā (Question of the Day):** Classroom brains were put to the test daily with targeted reo challenges, covering missing lyrics from popular waiata, identifying ingoa Māori for local tūtohu whenua (landmarks) and learning reo used to cheer on sports teams (hākinakina).
- **Kī-o-Rahi on the Field:** Lunchtimes saw dynamic Kī-o-Rahi sessions running, giving taura a chance to stay active while picking up and using key vocabulary and gameplay terms in te reo Māori.
- **Inter-Empower Whakamana Competition:** Pride and bragging rights were on the line as Empower Whakamana classes went head-to-head in a fierce reo Māori trivia showdown to test their overall knowledge.

It has been an incredible week full of enthusiasm, connection and pride. Seeing our taura use te reo Māori naturally—whether acknowledging each other in the corridors or shouting encouragement during games.



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Experience Day

Year 7 And Year 8 Experience Day

Future College Legends

On Wednesday morning, Ōtorohanga College welcomed the Year 7 and Year 8 students from our contributing primary schools for a special Experience Day. The purpose of the day was to give students a taste of College life and the chance to get to know our grounds, teachers and each other in a supportive and engaging way.

The morning began with a sense of quiet nervousness as students stepped into a new environment, however, as they rotated through a variety of hands-on activities, this quickly shifted into laughter and excited chatter. From cooking challenges in Ready, Steady, Cook, to scientific discovery in Science is Real, to creating Zentangle Animals, Making Music and competing in Multisport, the day was filled with fun and learning.

By the end of the day, the smiles and energy spoke for themselves – our future College students left with new experiences, friendships and confidence about what lies ahead.



Key Dates

Thursday 24th September
Friday 25th September
Monday 12th October

Maniapoto Secondary Schools Cultural Festival
End of Term Three
Term Four Starts

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