



# ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE UPDATES AND WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term One, Week One – Thursday 30 January – Friday 31 January 2025

## PRINCIPAL

Fàilte Gu Bliadhna Ur Sa Cholaiste  
Welcome To A New College Year

Dear parents, guardians and whānau

It is an honour to welcome you to the start of an exciting new academic year at Ōtorohanga College. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning as part of our community, we are thrilled to have you with us. This marks the beginning of another year filled with learning, growth and shared successes.

At Ōtorohanga College, we believe that when we work together - students, staff and parents - we can create a powerful, supportive environment where every young person can be empowered to achieve their full potential.

Our aim is to provide not only an excellent education, but also the tools and opportunities that will help your child grow into a confident, curious and capable individual. From engaging lessons to extracurricular activities, we are committed to nurturing their unique strengths and helping them discover new passions.

We also know that your involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success. By fostering open communication and staying engaged in their journey, you help create a network of support that will encourage them to thrive. We encourage you to stay connected with us, share your feedback and celebrate the milestones – big and small – along the way.

Let us make this a year of shared success, progress and meaningful memories. Thank you for entrusting us with the incredible privilege of educating your child. We are ready to embark on this journey with you, and we cannot wait to see all that this year will bring.

This year our Community Strategic Goal is to strengthen partnerships between the College and the community. We have three Annual Targets to focus on and we will share, on a regular basis, the progress towards those Annual Targets which are:

- Strengthen partnerships with parents, whānau and mana whenua for success.
- Collaborate with our Kāhui Āko to establish partnerships to support all students throughout their academic journey.
- Increase the College's contribution to the wider community and raise its profile.

Warmest regards

Lyndsay Kurth  
Principal



**Principal  
Lyndsay Kurth**

# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL HAUORA

**NAU MAI KI TE TAU HOU  
WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!**



**Deputy Principal Hauora  
Vanessa Te Huia**

We hope you have all had a wonderful raumati.

This year our Hauora Wellbeing Strategic Goal is to support all of our students wellbeing with equitable, inclusive and restorative practices. We have three Annual Targets that we will focus on and regularly share how we are progressing towards those Annual Targets each term. Our three Annual Targets are:

1. To achieve an attendance rate of 90% plus for all students.
2. Increased participation in College activities - student's voice captured through Komodo survey.
3. Reduced numbers of repeat students in Lunchtime Catch Ups, stand down and suspension data.

## EMPOWER WHAKAMANA

Every morning from 8:50 to 9:00 AM, students will attend their Empower Whakamana class, which is designated by their House and year level. During this time, there will be a roll call, uniform check and updates regarding any College announcements. Your child's Empower Whakamana Teacher is the first point of contact for all parents, guardians and whānau.

Three times each term, students will participate in an extended Empower Whakamana class. This provides an opportunity for academic mentoring and allows students to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas as part of our College Komodo survey. The insights gathered will help our staff to better support students and ensure that their voices are heard. It is important that students attend these classes daily.



## DEANS

Each year level has a Dean available to support students with various concerns. Students can approach their Dean about matters such as timetable or subject issues, uniform questions, homework concerns, attendance, friendship or bullying issues, study skills and future education planning.

If a student needs to meet with their year level Dean, they can do so during Empower Whakamana class or check their schedule posted on the Dean's Office doors to find out when they are next available. Additionally, they can email their Dean at any time for assistance.



**Year 9 Dean  
Whaea Samm Oates**



**Year 10 Dean  
Whaea Mickey Carr**



**Year 11 Dean  
Whaea Areta Kahura**



**Year 12 and 13 Dean  
Mrs Roughton**

# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



*Hartlik welkom aan alle ouers en skoliere in 2025*  
**Welcome all parents and students to 2025**

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT  
STOFFEL WILKEN

In 2025 our Student Achievement Strategic Goal is to support all students to progress to their highest educational potential. To reach this very important Goal, we have three Annual Targets:

- At least 85% of senior students will achieve their NCEA certificates and at least 85% of junior students will perform at or above the expected Curriculum Level.
- Senior students will complete standards each term, while junior students will undertake one formal assessment per term. Assessment results will be published every term.
- Student progress will be tracked meticulously, with timely interventions implemented as needed.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday teachers and support staff at the College participated in professional development focused on Literacy and Numeracy, led by experts from the University of Waikato. Numeracy specialist Sharlene Nathan and Literacy specialist Chrystal Hapuku provided valuable tools and strategies to help teachers better support students in achieving their NCEA co-requisites for Literacy and Numeracy. The sessions also explored the use of Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) as a pathway for students to meet these requirements. Teachers were equipped with practical techniques to prepare students effectively, ensuring they have the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.



## E-ASTTLE TESTING FOR ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS

In Week Two, junior students will participate in e-asTTle testing to assess their curriculum level in English and Mathematics. Each student will have three tests: Mathematics, Reading and Writing. The results will provide valuable insights into each student's current level of achievement and help guide targeted support for their learning. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to refer to the provided timetable below to see when their child will be assessed.

Ōtorohanga College					
Timetable: e-asTTle Testing					
	Monday 03/02/25	Tuesday 04/02/25	Wednesday 05/02/25	Friday 07/02/25	
LB 1 9:00 - 10:00	10 Wairere - Reading	9 Ngahere - Writing 10 Maunga - Reading	9 Wai - Reading 10 Wairere - Writing 10 Moana - Maths	LB 1 9:10 - 10:10	
LB 2 10:00 - 11:00		9 Wai - Maths 9 Motu - Writing 9 Roto - Reading 10 Moana - Writing	9 Ngahere - Maths 10 Maunga - Writing 10 Awa - Writing	LB 2 10:10 - 10:45	
LB 3 11:30 - 12:30			9 Motu - Maths 9 Roto - Maths 10 Moana - Reading	LB 3 11:15 - 12:15	9 Ngahere - Reading 9 Roto - Writing 10 Wairere - Maths
LB 4 12:30 - 1:30				LB 4 12:15 - 1:15	9 Wai - Writing 10 Maunga - Maths 10 Awa - Maths
LB 5 2:00 - 3:00	9 Motu - Reading	10 Awa - Reading		LB 5 2:00 - 3:00	

## WELCOME TO 2025

Wednesday morning saw 82 excited and nervous Year 9 students ready to embark on the next step of their learning journey.

A Pōwhiri was led by Matua Roy Willison and Whaea Mere from Taarewaanga Marae to welcome students and their supporters.

At the conclusion of the Pōwhiri, the Principal shared a few words:

“Nau mai haere mai - welcome.

Welcome to the College. We hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday and are relaxed, recharged and ready to start here at the College with energy and dedication. This is a fresh start, a clean slate and an incredible opportunity to make this year your best one yet.

Year 9 is a special time in your journey. You are stepping into a year filled with new challenges and opportunities to shine. This is the year to discover your potential, to aim high and to push past limits you did not even know you had - remember that the things that seem hardest at first are often the most rewarding in the end.

This year is also about finding balance. While academics are important, so are friendships, creativity and the time you spend on what makes you happy.

Commit to being curious, courageous and kind. Celebrate each other's victories, learn from mistakes and never be afraid to ask for help. Each of you has something unique to offer this world and this year is a chapter in your story where you can begin to shape that future.

To whānau, parents and staff from contributing primary schools, it is heartwarming to see so many of you here to support the Year 9s transition to the College.

The Year 9s then headed to their Empower Whakamana class to learn a wee bit more about the College.



## KEY DATES AND FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th February - Junior e-asTTle testing

Thursday 6th February - Waitangi Day

Friday 14th February - Student Leaders Badging Ceremony

Thursday 20th February - College Swimming Sports

Monday 3rd March - Jase Williams at College

Wednesday 5th March - College Athletics

Thursday 13th March - King Country Athletics

Friday 14th March - Pi-Day

Friday 21st March - King Country Swimming

Wednesday 9th April - Empower Whakamana Conferences

**Empowering learners to succeed**