

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

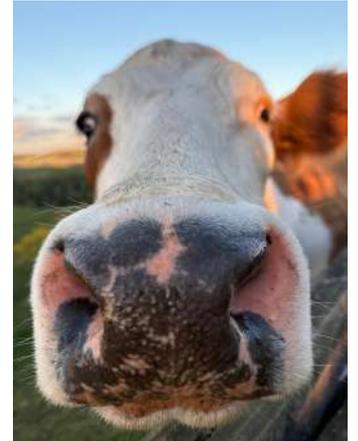
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term One, Week Eight
Monday 16th March - Friday 20th March 2026

SCIENCE FACULTY

Level 2 Agriculture

This term has been all about cows! Our first assessment covered the many breeds of cattle (both dairy and beef) we have in New Zealand, the different methods of identifying cattle and the importance of keeping accurate records. We then moved on to some cow anatomy - udders and how they work. We have had plenty of discussions and I can guarantee you that all students have a new appreciation of how cow's produce milk.



Year 9 Making Dilutions

Yr 9s had fun trying their hand at making a range of weaker and weaker dilutions from a concentrated solution. They really got into the task and measured their volumes accurately, producing exceptional results and showing themselves to be budding chemists.



Year 10 AgVenture

In AgVenture we started off by looking at the history of farming in New Zealand. We then turned our focus to sheep (hipi) and wūru (wool). We covered different breeds of sheep, what they were introduced into New Zealand for and then covered the key stages involved in the processing of wūru. Students scoured wool and used their clean wool to have a go at carding and spinning. There was a mix of success, but overall, lots of fun and hands on learning took place. To end the term, we will have a brief delve into dairy farming and taste some dairy products.



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SCIENCE FACULTY

Year 11 Agriculture

As Term One is designated as the growth term, the Level 1 Agriculture students have been actively engaged in cultivating seedlings from seeds and propagating plants from cuttings. They have also been involved in planting the College's gardens and enhancing the flower beds on the College grounds.



Year 11 Micro-organisms and their Environment

Term One for year 11 students is about being a microbiologist, studying micro-organisms. There is no better way to learn about how yeast is affected by temperature and the effect that it then has on its environment than getting hands on and baking some bread. Mrs Roughton's class was welcomed into the Hospitality room where they successfully whipped up delicious focaccia bread in an hour.



Year 12 Biology Pureora Forest Trip

Earlier in March, the Year 12 Biology students embarked on a visit to Pureora Forest as part of their ongoing study of ecology. Their objectives included identifying various plant species, observing their adaptations to the diverse forest layers and collecting data on the variations in temperature, humidity and particularly light intensity as they approached the forest floor. Additionally, the students enjoyed some leisure time aboard an old logging tractor!



CANADIAN VISITORS

NETBALL Wednesday 18th March Town Courts



Robert Bateman Secondary School from Canada, proudly known as the Timberwolves, arrived in Ōtorohanga on Wednesday for two action-packed days of netball and rugby. These visits are always a highlight, providing a fantastic opportunity for our students to connect with international guests and share a mutual passion for sport.

The tour got off to a brilliant start with an afternoon of netball played in the sunshine, showcasing great skill, energy and sportsmanship from all teams. We continued the connection on the rugby field, strengthening the friendships formed through this special exchange.



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CANADIAN VISITORS



RUGBY Thursday 19th March Ōtorohanga College



A classy Robert Bateman (Canada) side proved too strong for Ōtorohanga College on Thursday. Despite a physical and hard-fought battle, it was a fantastic occasion for our College community to witness some high-quality rugby. To our visitors, thank you for coming to New Zealand and Ōtorohanga College and we wish you all the best as you head to Australia.



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STUDENT LEADERS

GRIP Leadership Course

On Tuesday, we had the privilege of attending the GRIP Leadership conference in Rotorua, where we collaborated with numerous other schools to engage in workshops focused on the essence of effective leadership. The sessions covered various topics, including public speaking, organising House events and fostering unity within our College community, providing valuable tips and strategies for each. Overall, we found the event to be highly informative and we are eager to apply the insights we gained to enhance our College's initiatives.

Student Leaders 2026



This week we travelled to Rotorua for the GRIP Student Leadership Conference which was held at the Novotel Conference venue. GRIP is a practical and interactive training conference for students, held annually at various cities across Aotearoa. Our Student Leaders joined about 100 other Leaders from the area for an insightful and fun event. Topics included Public Speaking, Leadership Styles and Organising School Events. It was a long day, but a worthwhile event.

Jane Keir Deputy Principal, Hauora

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Empowering Students

WINTEC Hairdressing Taster Experience

A select group of students recently attended the Wintec Hairdressing Taster Experience, providing them with an immersive introduction to the world of professional hair design.

Throughout the session, students explored the salon environment, familiarised themselves with industry-standard tools and gained valuable insight into Wintec's vocational training pathways. Under the guidance of experienced tutors, participants enjoyed a hands-on workshop where they practiced foundational styling techniques.

This experience offered a meaningful glimpse into a potential career path, allowing students to engage with mentors and envision their post-secondary education. We extend our sincere thanks to Wintec for hosting such an informative and inspiring day.



WOMEN In Trades



Ten enthusiastic young women proudly represented our College at the Women in Trades Expo in Rotorua. They embraced the opportunity to explore a wide range of hands-on career pathways, showing curiosity, confidence and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Throughout the day, they engaged with industry professionals, asked thoughtful questions and supported one another as they discovered new possibilities for their futures. Their positive attitudes and determination made them outstanding ambassadors and they returned inspired to consider exciting opportunities in the trades.



Key Dates

Wednesday 1st April	Parent, Student and Teacher Conferences
Thursday 2nd April	Cross Country Colour Run Term One Ends
Monday 20th April	Term Two Starts
Monday 27th April	ANZAC Day Observed
Tuesday 28th April	Teacher Only Day

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