

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Four, Week One
Monday 12th October – Friday 16th October 2026



Principal Lyndsay Kurth

Welcome to Term Four

Kia ora, Nau mai, haere mai, Ni sa bula vinaka, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei.

Term Four is a milestone moment in our College calendar – particularly for our Year 13 students who are approaching the end of their journey at Ōtorohanga College.

With Prizegiving on Wednesday, 4 November at 6:00pm and NCEA external examinations beginning on Tuesday, 10 November, time is of the essence. The coming weeks are a vital opportunity for seniors to consolidate their learning, reflect on how far they have come and prepare with confidence for their next steps.

Supporting Senior Success We encourage all senior students to make every lesson count, maintain consistent attendance, stick to effective study routines and reach out for support whenever needed. The guidance and encouragement of whānau during this time are invaluable. A balanced approach, combining thorough preparation with rest and wellbeing, will set our students up to perform at their absolute best.

Juniors Finishing Strong For our junior students, Term Four is a chance to build on the year's progress and finish on a high. The habits, skills and knowledge developed now form the foundation for next year and beyond. We ask our junior learners to stay engaged, take pride in their efforts and continue to embody our core College Values: Honour Others, Honour Your Environment and Honour Yourself.

Empowering Learners To Succeed Our vision at Ōtorohanga College is to empower learners to succeed – academically, socially and personally. We want every student to finish this year knowing that their hard work matters, that their progress is worth celebrating and that the character they build here will serve them for a lifetime.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with Ōtorohanga College. The strong connection between our College and whānau is central to student achievement and we deeply appreciate your trust, support and encouragement throughout the year.

Let us encourage our young people to embrace the opportunities ahead, finish with purpose and take pride in everything they have accomplished. We look forward to celebrating their achievements and bringing the College year to a positive, successful close.

Ngā mihi nui

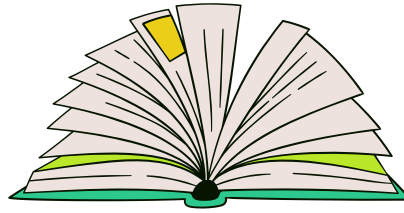
Lyndsay Kurth
Principal

From The Principal's Desk

Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal

Achievement Stoffel Wilken



Finishing Strong, Celebrating Success And Looking To 2027

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope you all had a refreshing break and are ready for an exciting, highly focused final term of the academic year. As we head into these crucial weeks, our academic focus turns to consolidating a year's worth of learning, celebrating high achievement and preparing both staff and students for a seamless transition into 2027.

Here is an overview of key academic dates, assessments and milestones to look forward to this term:

1. Senior Course Selection And 2027 Planning

Course selections for all Year 10 to Year 12 students are currently being finalised. Completing this process enables us to lock in our staffing and timetabling structure to ensure a strong setup for 2027.

2. Senior Prizegiving And Exam Leave

- Wednesday, 4 November: Final College day for all senior students before they commence study leave.
- Senior Prizegiving: Held on the evening of Wednesday, 4 November at 6:00 PM. On this special night, we formally celebrate the academic success, dedication and hard work of our senior students. Invitations will be sent directly to parents and caregivers of all prizewinners.

3. NCEA Examinations And Exam Readiness

- Deans' Assembly Briefing (Monday, 26 October): Senior students will receive detailed instructions covering arrival times, permitted items and behavioural expectations during assessment sessions.
- Exam Period: NCEA examinations run from Tuesday, 10 November through to Tuesday, 1 December.
- Admission Slips: Every student will receive a personalised timetable and admission slip. Crucial note: Students must bring their official admission slip to every exam to be granted entry into the venue.

4. Common Assessment Activities (CAA) Results

- Release dates and times for the recent CAA assessments are as follows:
- Reading Results: Wednesday, 14 October at 3:30 PM
- Writing and Numeracy Results: Tuesday, 27 October at 3:30 PM

5. Junior SMART Assessments

- For our Year 9 and 10 students, the second round of diagnostic SMART assessments will take place between Monday, 12 October and Friday, 13 November.
- English and Mathematics teachers will notify students of their specific assessment times and timetables will be shared with parents/caregivers.
- Attendance is essential: These assessments provide critical diagnostic data regarding literacy and numeracy levels, helping us identify achievements, spot learning gaps and tailor academic support for every student.

6. Curriculum Refresh And Looking Ahead

Behind the scenes, our teaching staff are actively engaged in professional development and planning to ensure a smooth implementation of the refreshed NZ Curriculum in 2027.

7. End of Term And Junior Prizegiving

We will conclude the College year with our Junior Prizegiving on Friday, 11 December, followed shortly after by the release of final Junior academic reports.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to guide our students through to a successful conclusion of the College year.



Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal



Hauora Whāea Jane Keir

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to Term 4, a shorter term of nine weeks and also a very busy one in the lead up to the end of the College year! There are many celebrations at College during this term and lots of happenings across the year groups. Attendance still matters – please connect with your child's Dean or make an appointment with me if you have concerns and need help with your child's attendance. We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance. More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents and caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's website <https://www.education.govt.nz/education-professionals/schools-year-0-13/managing-students/student-attendance-guide-schools-and-kura>

Please note, our database sends out standard absence letters at 5, 10 and 15 days absence. This is part of the Ministry of Education's Attendance Process and is a required standard procedure. If you have already explained your child's absences to our Office please do not reply to these notifications.

At the end of last term our staff engaged with staff from the University of Waikato Restorative Practice team to refresh our skills and knowledge with this approach. It is an approach to relationships, behaviour and conflict that focuses on repairing harm, rebuilding trust and strengthening relationships rather than simply punishing students. In our College, Restorative Practice helps students understand how their actions affect others, take responsibility for their behaviour and develop the skills to make better choices in the future. This approach is built on the belief that strong relationships, personal responsibility and a sense of belonging create a positive environment for learning.

The key principles of restorative practice:

1. Building relationships

Developing positive, respectful relationships between students, teachers, whānau and the wider College community.

2. Encouraging respectful communication

Giving everyone involved an opportunity to share their perspective, listen to others and feel heard.

3. Taking responsibility

Helping students recognise the impact of their actions, acknowledge harm and identify how they can put things right.

4. Repairing harm and restoring relationships

Agreeing on practical actions that address the harm, rebuild trust and help prevent the problem from happening again.

5. Maintaining safety and belonging

Ensuring students feel safe, respected and included, while maintaining clear expectations and appropriate consequences.

Restorative practice does not mean ignoring poor behaviour or removing consequences. It combines accountability with opportunities for learning, repair and positive change.

Restorative practice supports our College to:

- Improve relationships between students and staff.
- Reduce repeated conflict and support more positive behaviour.
- Strengthen student voice, empathy and emotional regulation.
- Create a stronger sense of belonging and College connection.
- Support successful transitions back into learning after behavioural incidents.
- Build a consistent, relationship-centred approach across the College.

The key message: Restorative practice is about holding students accountable with dignity, rather than simply imposing consequences on them. It asks students to understand the impact of their actions, take responsibility and work towards making things better.

As a staff we have been reviewing how we implement Restorative Practice in our College and have been developing a Learning Relationship Plan. This is in its final stages of development and I will share this with you before the end of the term.

Nga mihi nui
Jane Keir

Empowering learners to succeed

MĀORI

MĀORI

FACULTY

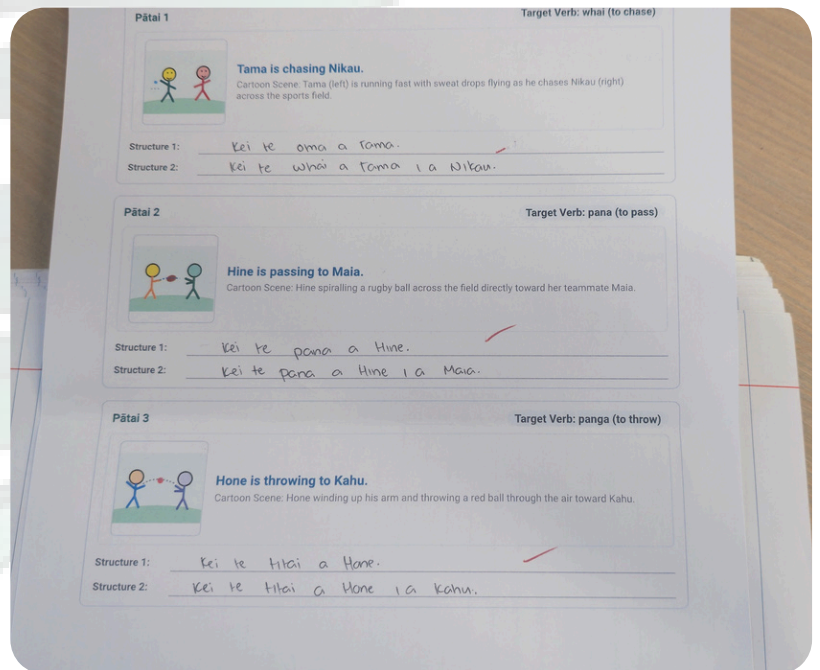
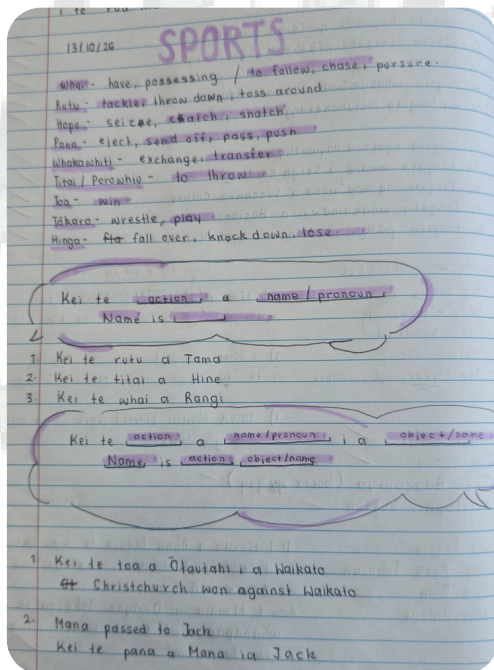
Te Reo Māori

It has been a fantastic start to the term, with a clear focus on building confidence and fluency across our junior levels using Te Reo Māori.

This term, our Year 9 classes are focusing on ngā tohutohu (instructions and directions), equipping students with functional language to navigate everyday learning environments as they work towards instructing their peers in Te Reo Māori. Meanwhile, our Year 10 students are diving into hākinakina (sports and physical activities), exploring active-context vocabulary that connects language directly to action. Through both of these practical units, our main goal is to normalise and grow the daily use of Te Reo Māori right across our kura.

Our tuakana (senior students) are working hard as they wrap up their final assessments for the year, revise key concepts and thoroughly prepare for their upcoming exams.

We look forward to a productive, language-rich term ahead



Key Dates

Wednesday 21st October
Tuesday 27th October
Wednesday 4th November
Monday - Friday 9th - 13th November
Tuesday 10th November
Tuesday - Wednesday 1st - 2nd December
Wednesday 9th December
Thursday 10th December
Friday 11th December

Fade Up Episode 2 Premiere
Music Performance Evening
Senior Prizegiving and Leavers' Dinner
Smart Testing
NCEA Examinations begin
Year 8 Whakawhanungataga Days
Year 9 and Year 10 Trips
Year 9 and Year 10 - Pool Day
Junior Prizegiving - End of Term

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