

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Three, Week Four
Monday 24th August - Friday 28th August 2026

Social Sciences FACULTY

Guardians, Governments and Global Games

This term for Social Studies, our junior students explored the history and future of the Commonwealth Games, inspired by the recent event in Glasgow. Through hands-on learning, our taura investigated the extensive planning and strategy required to host a major global event.

This term, our Year 9 taura are exploring the concept of kaitiakitanga by developing sustainable strategies to safeguard the long-term health of our whenua. Through practical inquiry, students are investigating methods to protect land, waterways and natural resources for future generations. Additionally, taura are examining diverse perspectives, such as focusing on how indigenous values and Mātauranga Māori inform and strengthen environmental guardianship.

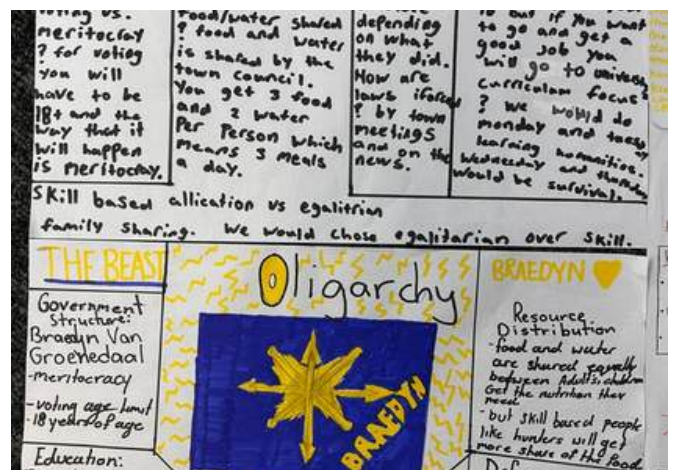
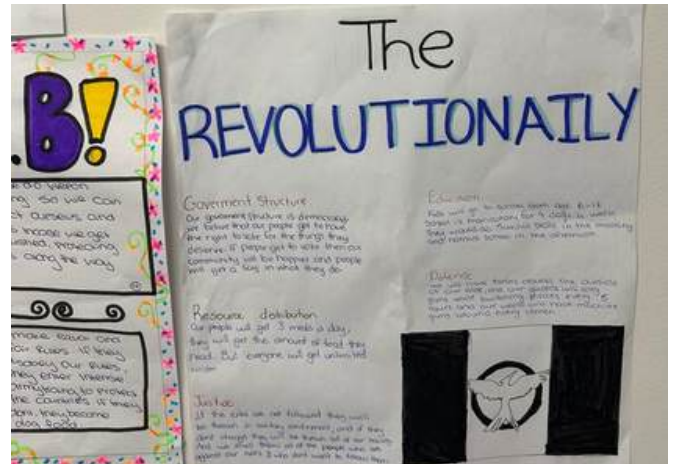
Our Year 10s are looking into Government and leadership. This unit introduces taura to the basic concepts of rules, law, decision-making and leadership. Through this unit, they have been introduced to the New Zealand system of government and are exploring concepts such as democracy, MMP and looking into the voting system.



Our seniors are preparing for Derived Grade Exams, running from 14 September to 21 September. Seniors should be setting time aside at home to focus on their exams.

In 2027, our Junior curriculum will change to align with the newly released curriculum documents. Over the next few months, staff in our Department will collaborate to develop our lessons and learning materials ready for 2027.

Empowering learners to succeed



Our Commerce students are currently looking at pricing systems and working with financial and non-financial tools that support decision-making around pricing. As part of their learning, they are completing group work which involves costing cupcakes. They have developed a survey and peer response groups that will help to inform their pricing decisions for their cupcakes.

Blue Lights Camp

Two local students, Dayton Ashley from Ōtorohanga College and another student from Te Kūiti High School, recently attended the Blue Light Skills Camp held at Whenuapai Air Base from 17 to 21 August.

The boys were selected by their schools in recognition of their excellent attendance, positive attitude and commitment to their school communities. Although both were understandably a little nervous before the camp began, they quickly settled into the experience and embraced the challenges and opportunities on offer. By the end of the week, both agreed they would happily take part in a similar camp again.

The camp introduced participants to military-style routines, including early starts, teamwork activities, marching and learning valuable life skills such as maintaining personal discipline and making their beds to a high standard. Some of the week's highlights included rafting at Whitewater Park at Manukau, meeting the Air Force working dogs and visiting the Air Force Fire Service.

Like many young people spending a week away from home, the boys missed a few creature comforts, including sleeping in, having their own space and enjoying their favourite takeaway meals, however, these challenges helped build resilience, independence and confidence.

Blue Light Ōtorohanga/Te Kūiti is proud to support local youth through opportunities such as the Skills Camp and looks forward to helping more young people participate in similar programmes in the future.



Emerging Ethnic Leaders Breakfast

The Ministry of Education and The Refugee Orientation Centre Trust held an event at the Hamilton Lake Cafe on August 28th to honour emerging ethnic young leaders. Marcus Frecke, Director of Education, and Tim Macindoe, Hamilton Mayor, presented students with certificates and badges to honour their work in their colleges. We are very proud to let you know that two of our Student Leaders, Lindsay Millar and Santina Ancheta were among those honoured.



Daffodil Day

Brightening up the grounds for a fantastic cause, our College recently celebrated Daffodil Day to raise vital funds and awareness for the Cancer Society.

Students embraced the spirit of the day by swapping their usual uniforms for mufti, bringing along a gold coin donation and sporting bright yellow clothing. Our staff members joined in the fun with a vibrant array of eye-catching yellow outfits. The festive atmosphere continued at the B-Hive Cafe, which served up popular yellow slushies and delicious yellow-themed treats, with every single dollar raised going straight to the cause. Staff also gathered for a shared morning tea filled with yellow goodies and generous donations.

Thank you to our entire College community for coming together, showing such incredible generosity and turning our College into a sea of yellow!



Key Dates

Sunday 30 August - Friday 4 September
Monday 7 September
Tuesday 8 September
Wednesday 9 September
Thursday 10 September
Monday 14 September - 21 September
Wednesday 16 September

Thursday 24 September
Friday 25 September

UNISS Netball Tournament
CAA Reading
CAA Writing
Teacher Only Day
CAA Numeracy
Derived Grade Examinations
Senior Students Examination Study Day
Year 7 and Year 8 Experience Day
Maniapoto Secondary Schools Cultural Festival
End of Term Three

Empowering learners to succeed