ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Four, Week Four
Monday 2nd October - Friday 6th October 2026

SCIENCE Faculty

The Science Of Today Is The Technology Of Tomorrow

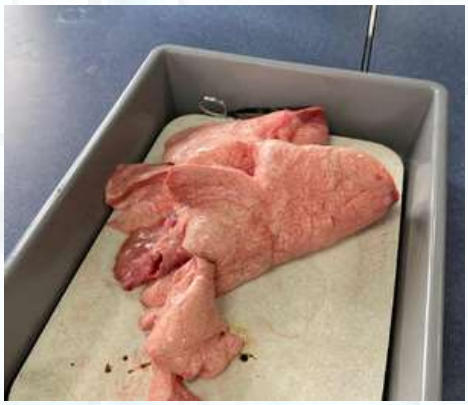
Senior Science – The Next Chapter

As the year draws to a close, our senior Science students are finishing up their learning this week and turning their attention towards the upcoming exams. It has been a busy year of learning, practical investigations and developing new skills and we wish all our senior students the very best as they prepare for their final assessments. For some, this also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter, with plans to move into further study, training or the workforce. A huge thank you to our incredible Year 13 students! It has been a privilege teaching and supporting you. We wish you all the very best as you step into your future and we can not wait to hear about all the fantastic things you achieve next.

Junior Science – What Has Been Happening?

Year 9 Science - The Amazing Human Body

Year 9 students have been exploring the amazing human body and discovering how our major body systems work together to keep us alive and functioning. Their learning has focused on three key systems: the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems. Students have been investigating how food is broken down to provide energy, how oxygen enters the body and how the heart and blood vessels transport oxygen and nutrients around the body. They are discovering just how interconnected these systems are and why each plays such an important role in keeping us healthy!



Year 9 Let It Grow - From Seed To Plant

It is all about getting things growing in our Year 9 Let It Grow module! Students have been exploring the fascinating journey of a plant, from a tiny seed through to a growing plant. They have been learning about germination and the conditions needed for seeds to begin growing, as well as investigating photosynthesis and how plants use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to make their own food. It has been a great opportunity to develop their understanding of plant growth and the important role plants play in our environment.



Empowering learners to succeed

Science Faculty

Every Accomplishment Starts With The Decision To Try

Year 10 Science – The Dynamic Earth

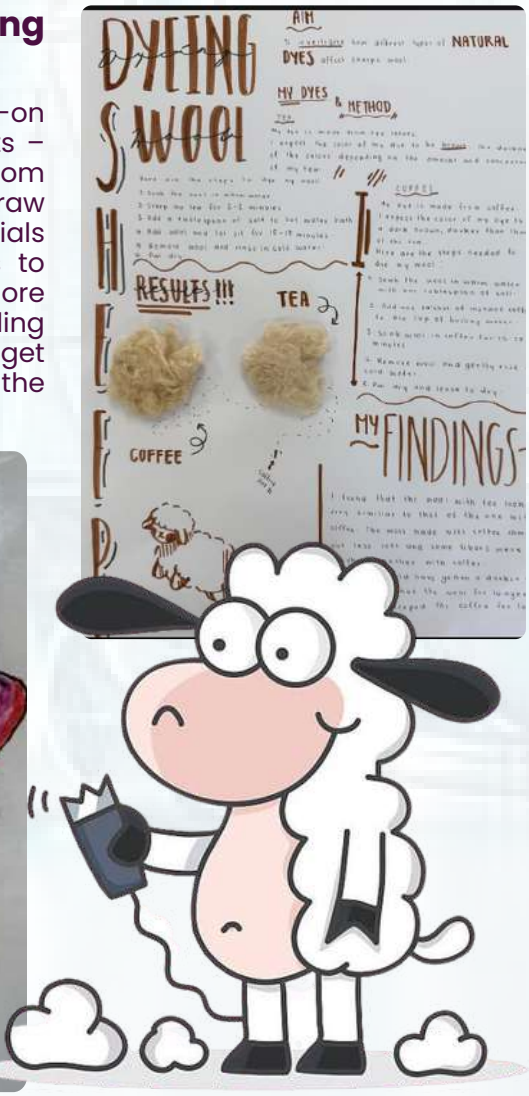
Things have been getting a little more explosive in Year 10 Science! Students have been learning about our ever-changing planet through the study of tectonic plates, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. They have explored how the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates shapes the landscape and causes some of the powerful natural events we experience around the world. With New Zealand sitting on the boundary of two major tectonic plates, this learning has provided some fascinating connections to our own environment and the natural hazards that affect our country.



Year 10 AgVenture – From Sheep To Something Special!

Our Year 10 AgVenture students have been getting hands-on with one of New Zealand's traditional agricultural products – wool! As part of their journey exploring how wool goes from sheep to a finished product, students have been scouring raw wool themselves before experimenting with natural materials to create their own wool dyes. Using natural resources to produce different colours has allowed students to explore traditional techniques, practical skills and the value of adding to a natural product. It has been a great opportunity to get hands-on, get creative and discover a little more about the journey of wool from the farm to the finished product!





Empowering learners to succeed

Senior Prizegiving

Seniors

Take The Memory, Chase The Dreams

The Journey, The Memories, The Achievements

Our Senior Prizegiving was a wonderful evening celebrating the immense hard work, dedication and talent our students have displayed throughout the year. We were proud to recognise achievements spanning all areas of College life—from academic excellence and sporting triumphs to cultural involvement and community contributions.

Special congratulations go to our Special Award recipients:

- Dux: Katie Raine
- Proxime Accessit: Aviva Mudge
- The Hurley Cup: Moana Oakley - Tupou
- Sportsman of the Year: Arlo Willis
- Sportswoman of the Year: Moana Oakley - Tupou
- Cultural Personality of the Year: Nathanial Harland
- Best Overall Academic Performance (Year 11): Dinuk Jayatilaka
- Best Academic Performance (Year 12): Frank Lucero
- Most Outstanding Year 13 Science Student: Xayin Connolly
- Pathways Vocational Excellence Award & Trades Trophy: Sahraia Selway
- Te Rautaki Reo o te Nehenehenui Award: Evee Pene
- Maniapoto FM Award: Maiya Martin
- Scholarship Recipients:
  - Katie Raine: Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship from the University of Otago and The Academic Excellence Scholarship from the Victoria University Of Wellington.
  - Jamie Fare: Ko Te Tangata Scholarship from the University Of Waikato and The Tangiwai Excellence Award from the University Of Otago.
  - Jessica Buckley: Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship from the University Of Waikato.
  - Aviva Mudge: Lines Company Scholarship.
- Wintec Excellence and Distinction Awards: Jared Paterson (Construction and Infrastructure), Sahraia Selway (Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy Services) and Corey Hobbs (Exercise Science & Outdoor Education).

We were also thrilled to announce our Student Leaders for 2027:

- Head Students: Tepola Levula and Kylie Woodward
- Brown House Captains: Amelia Fare and Abigail Redmond
- Eveleigh House Captains: Lizaan Pretorius and Angel-Jane Thomson
- Hotson House Captain: Frank Lucero
- Kedgley House Captains: Awhina Davis and Marua Davis
- School Board Student Representative: Maz Wanden

Congratulations to all of our prizewinners for their well deserved recognition! To our departing Year 13 leavers, thank you for your contributions to our College community—we wish you the absolute best in all your future endeavors.










Pathways

Careers

Speed Dating
Connect. Pitch. Build.

Fast Connections, Big Futures

A huge thank you to Elevate for organising such an incredible Career Speed Dating event for our Year 9 students! We are immensely grateful to all the local businesses and industry professionals who gave up their valuable time to share their expertise and real-world insight.

Our Year 9s had the chance to engage in fast-paced, interactive Q&A sessions across a wide range of industries, including trades, healthcare, technology, creative arts, and business services. Thanks to the generosity and guidance of our guest speakers, our Year 9 students gained invaluable knowledge about diverse training and career pathways, inspiring them early in their journey to explore exciting possibilities for their futures.












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Taking Centre Stage:

The Finalists

Ō Factor

Finalists And Winners Announced

High Stakes And Big Talent: The Finals

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Ō Factor 2026! It was fantastic to see so many students step up to earn House points in the auditions and we were blown away by the talent and courage of those who took the stage for the finals. Special thanks to our amazing audience for bringing the energy and supporting their peers!

We extend our sincere gratitude to our guest judges for generously giving their time and expertise: Emma Telfer from Kiokio Primary, Olivia Edwards representing Oto Dance Co and local musician Steve Ngapo. Your support was invaluable to the success of the event.

Individual Placings:

1st place	Alex Wilson
2nd place	Zede Hakaumotu
3rd equal	Alex Osana Aviva Mudge

Group Placings:

1st place	Dead Rose
2nd place	Xian / Zede
3rd equal	Girls Band Dance Crew











Key Dates

Monday 9th - Friday 13th November — Smart Testing
Tuesday 10th November — NCEA Examinations begin
Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November — Year 8 Whakawhanungataga Days
Thursday 10th December — Year 9 and Year 10 - Pool Day
Friday 11th December — Junior Prizegiving - End of Term

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