

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Four, Week Two
Monday 19th October – Friday 23rd October 2026

PATHWAYS

Dream Big Plan Smart

As the College year slowly but surely comes to an end, the Pathways team is reflecting on what has been a remarkably successful year for our students!

This week marks the conclusion of our Wintec Trades Academy programmes, including the Level 2 Construction and Infrastructure course held right here in Ōtorohanga. Throughout the year, Pathways successfully placed 50 students into valuable Gateway programmes across a diverse range of industries – including Agriculture, Horticulture, Retail, Hospitality, Early Childhood Education and Hair and Beauty Therapy.

Driver licensing is also actively in progress, with students continuing to take driving lessons and sitting tests to gain their Learner, Restricted or Full licenses.

While a few students are still wrapping up work experience placements and finishing their final unit standards, all official results will be loaded onto the system by the end of the year. We are immensely proud of our students' dedication and excited to see them succeeding as they take confident steps along their chosen pathways!

Waikato Unistart Presentation

Eight of our Year 12 students aiming for Merit and Excellence NCEA endorsements recently attended an inspiring Unistart presentation delivered by Chloe from the University of Waikato.

The Unistart programme allows high-achieving high school students to jumpstart their tertiary journey by completing university-level papers while still at school. Chloe walked the group through course options, entry requirements and the benefits of gaining university credits early. It was a valuable and motivating session that gave our future leaders a head start on planning their academic pathways!



Empowering learners to succeed

The Fade Up

The Fade Up Episode 2

Life Under the Spotlight - Mel O'Brien



On Wednesday evening we were proud to celebrate the premiere of Life Under the Spotlight - The Fade Up, Episode 2, bringing together students, community members and local partners to celebrate the stories and people that make our district special.

Developed in partnership with Ōtorohanga District Council, The Fade Up strengthens connections between our College and community while giving students valuable, hands-on experience in film and media production.

With the support of Sasha, Fabrice and Leon from He Koniahi - Story Circle, our student production crew developed practical skills in interviewing, filming, sound, lighting and editing, while building confidence, teamwork and communication skills.

Episode 2 features local personality Mel O'Brien, who generously shared her story and experiences. Her journey highlights the different pathways people take, the challenges they overcome and the opportunities that help shape their futures.

A huge thank you to our student production crew - Karla, Nicole, Blair, Marua and Robert - for their creativity and commitment and to everyone who contributed to making this project possible. We also acknowledge Brooke from Soul Hair Salon for providing the interview setting, Ali from the Council for communications support, the Regent team for hosting the premiere and Ōtorohanga District Council for its ongoing partnership and funding.

The premiere was a wonderful celebration of what can be achieved when education and community come together. We look forward to sharing the episode and using it to inspire further conversations and opportunities for our young people.

The Fade Up is about giving our rangatahi a voice, celebrating local stories and helping young people see the possibilities that exist for their futures

Empowering learners to succeed

Trips

ChemQuest

A Chemical Adventure

ChemQuest 2026

ChemQuest is a popular annual event that stretches and challenges NCEA Level 2 chemistry students in a fun and constructive way. The evening featured live music, practical demonstrations, including the famous "methanol cannon", and a spectacular "glow show."

It was a great opportunity for our students to test their chemistry knowledge against regional peers, experience campus life and enjoy some pizza.

Congratulations to all six students, Frank, Maiya, Hannah, Angelina, Harsdeep and Abigail for representing our College with enthusiasm, teamwork and scientific curiosity!

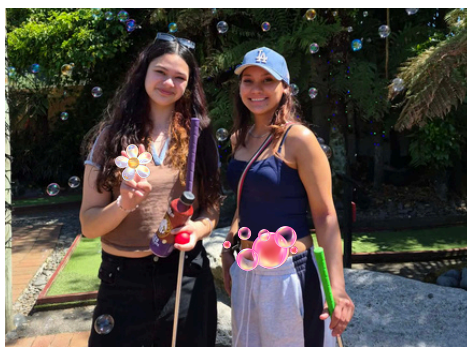


Cafē Crew

Rewards Trip

B-Hive Cafē Crew

The Cafē crew rewards trip was off to an amazing start on Thursday with sunshine, mini golf and giant rabbits. This is a well deserved reward for a year's hard work in the B-Hive Cafē



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Taking The Field

Cricket

A Winning Spirit on the Cricket Pitch

Our cricketers kicked off their Term 4 season with a magnificent win over Te Awamutu. The team, featuring several new players, took their hard work from practice out onto the pitch. Fielding first, debutants Omeka Paki and Eve Pene took superb catches. Luca Takao was solid in the chase with great contributions from Arlo Willis, Malachai Deuschle and John Woodward. What a great way to start the season!

Cricket Fever for Ōtorohanga College



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Around Our Kura

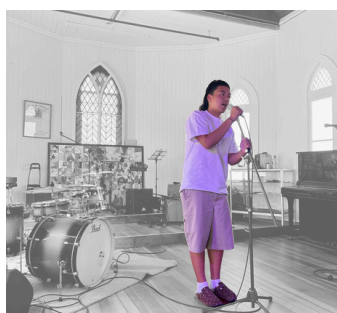
Artbeat

Where Creativity Comes Alive

Artbeat Celebrations

As part of the Artbeat celebrations held in the community over the weekend, some of our awesome College students performed on Saturday and Sunday at the Ōtorohanga museum. Performances across a range of genres were on display, including musical theatre, country and rock. Audience members were impressed by the calibre of our students performances and the skills they displayed.

Congratulations to Kanohi-Marama, Ava, Zede, Xian, Moana, Nathaniel, Mason, Alex and Raniera for participating in this event.



National Shake Out

On Wednesday 21 October, Ōtorohanga College joined schools, workplaces and communities across New Zealand in taking part in an earthquake drill. The exercise provided an important opportunity for students and staff to practise the correct safety procedures to follow during an earthquake, helping to ensure everyone understands how to respond quickly and safely in an emergency.

Participating in this drill helps strengthen our emergency preparedness and reinforces the importance of knowing what to do when an earthquake occurs. By practising these procedures, we can build confidence, raise awareness and ensure that the safety of our students and staff remains a priority.



Key Dates

Tuesday 27th October
Wednesday 4th November
Monday - Friday 9th - 13th November
Tuesday 10th November
Tuesday - Wednesday 24th - 25th November
Wednesday 9th December
Thursday 10th December
Friday 11th December

Music Performance Evening @ 7.00 pm
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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