

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term One, Week Ten
Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April 2026



Principal Lyndsay Kurth

Farewell to Term One

As we reach the conclusion of Term One, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a vibrant and productive start to the academic year at Ōtorohanga College. Whether your family is new to our community or has been with us for years, it has been a pleasure seeing our students settle in and make this term their own.

A first term always sets the tone and I am incredibly proud of the growth we have witnessed. From the classroom to the sports field and through various cultural and leadership milestones, our students have embraced the opportunities to learn and challenge themselves. Seeing them build resilience, curiosity and confidence over these past ten weeks has been a highlight for all our staff.

We know that a student's success is built on a strong foundation of partnership. We want to extend a sincere thank you to our whānau for your support and engagement. Whether you have attended events, reached out with questions, or encouraged your child from home, your involvement makes a tangible difference.

As we head into the term break, we encourage all our students to take this time to rest and recharge. You have worked hard and you deserve a moment to celebrate your achievements before we return for the opportunities of Term Two.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your children. We look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and ready for more shared success.

Warmest regards

Lyndsay Kurth
Principal

From the Principal's desk

Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal

Hauora

Whāea
Jane Keir



Kia Ora Koutou

It has been a fantastic start to the year, with students showing positive engagement across all areas of learning. Classrooms have been focused, purposeful and full of energy as students settle into routines and build strong learning habits.

A real highlight has been the creative work happening in classes. Students have embraced opportunities to think imaginatively, express their ideas and take pride in their work. From collaborative projects to individual creations, it has been great to see learners stepping outside their comfort zones and sharing their thinking with confidence.

We are especially proud of the way students are:

- Participating actively in lessons
- Supporting one another in their learning
- Demonstrating curiosity and creativity

We look forward to building on this strong foundation in Term 2.



Attendance Reminder

We are committed to supporting your child to attend College. If you are having difficulty getting your child to College, you can ask for support by contacting the College Office to:

- Connect with your child's Empower Whakamana teacher
- Connect with your child's Dean
- Making an appointment with the Deputy Principal Hauora

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>

Have a great Easter and two week break.

Ngā mihi nui

Whāea Jane Keir



Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal

Achievement Stoffel Wilken

As we reach the conclusion of what has been an exceptionally productive and fast-paced term, it is heartening to reflect on the significant progress made across all areas of the College. This period has been defined by a series of transformative changes designed to enhance the educational journey of our students. Most notably, we have successfully started to implement the refreshed New Zealand curriculum in Mathematics and English for our Juniors. To support these academic shifts, our reporting systems have undergone a comprehensive redesign. The new Junior reports now seamlessly align both the established and new curricula with the Ministry of Education's reporting expectations, ensuring that the feedback you receive is both clear and purposeful.

Furthering our commitment to transparency and student success, we have refined our Senior NCEA Progress Reports to provide parents with a more intuitive way to track achievement throughout the year. These updates are bolstered by the implementation of robust internal tracking systems within the College. These tools allow our teaching staff to monitor student development with greater precision, enabling us to identify and intervene early should a student require additional support. Our Junior students have also completed a series of diagnostic tests, providing us with a vital baseline of their literacy and numeracy skills as they prepare for the road ahead.

The term has been equally vibrant beyond the traditional classroom setting. Our students have embraced the spirit of exploration through twelve distinct Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) events, gaining invaluable experiences in diverse environments. Meanwhile, our vocational pathways are in full swing, with 27 students dedicated to their Wintec programmes. Whether they are studying at the Otorohanga campuses or boarding the early buses to Hamilton, these students are showing admirable commitment to their future trades and professions.

Looking toward the horizon, preparations for the upcoming Common Assessment Activities (CAA) are well underway. Many students have already been entered into these assessments and the College is ready to transition to the Ministry's new SMART tool, which will succeed the e-asTTle system. To ensure our whānau are more involved than ever, we are excited to introduce a new initiative for the coming months. We will be sharing detailed curriculum maps for Term 2, giving you a clear insight into the specific topics and skills your child will be exploring in their classes.

Finally, none of these advancements would be possible without the dedication of our staff. Throughout the term, our teachers have participated in numerous professional development sessions, focusing on new literacy tools and the nuances of the updated curriculum. Their commitment to staying at the forefront of educational change ensures that we continue to improve CAA attainment and provide the highest standard of learning. We wish all our families a refreshing break and look forward to another successful term ahead.



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TECHNOLOGY FACULTY

Year 9 Around the Table



This term, our Year 9 students have been exploring Asia through our Around the Table unit, learning about a range of cuisines, customs and cultural practices. Students investigated different countries before selecting a recipe to prepare and present as part of their final showcase. They also designed and created a themed table display to complement their dish. With the support of our Year 11 Hospitality students, the final showcase was a huge success. Miss Slade was blown away by the effort, creativity and pride students showed in both their food and presentation.



Year 10 Whenua to Whānau



This term in Whenua to Whānau, students have been developing their understanding of key nutrition concepts, including milk and milk alternatives, sugars, fats and salts. Each week included both theory and practical learning, allowing students to apply their knowledge in the kitchen. Through a range of savoury and sweet recipes, students explored how ingredients function and how they impact health and wellbeing, building both their confidence and practical cooking skills.



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TECHNOLOGY FACULTY

B-Hive

Life is like a cup of coffee.
It is all about how you make it.

Our B-Hive Cafe Baristas were in top form during Wednesday's Parent, Student And Teacher Conferences. The team worked tirelessly throughout the day to refine their barista and service skills while providing a warm welcome to our whānau. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their talents and provide a much-appreciated boost to our visitors.



Wood Tech

There is no scrap wood.
Just pieces yet to be used.

Year 9 students have been developing their skills using the bandsaw over the past few weeks of the term. One of the tasks involved cutting out a spatula on the bandsaw as accurately as possible, following a provided pattern.

Year 10 students were given strips of timber and could choose what they wanted to make. The students in the photo are busy painting boxes they have designed and made over the past few weeks of the term.

Year 11 students have used dowel and biscuit joints as part of one of their assessments. They have joined timber together to create a chopping board.

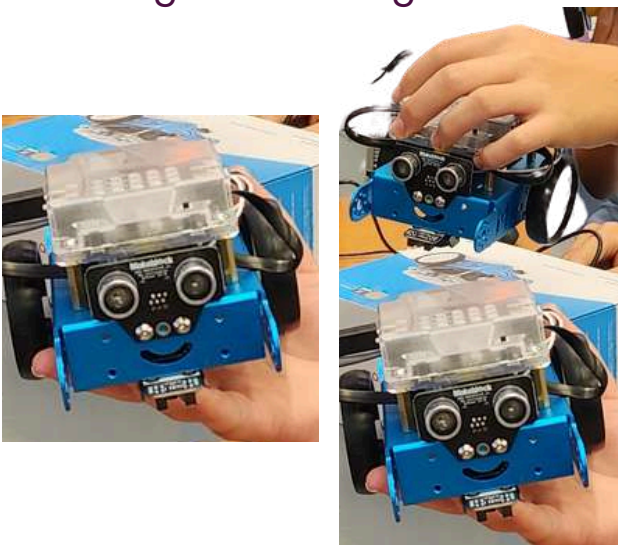
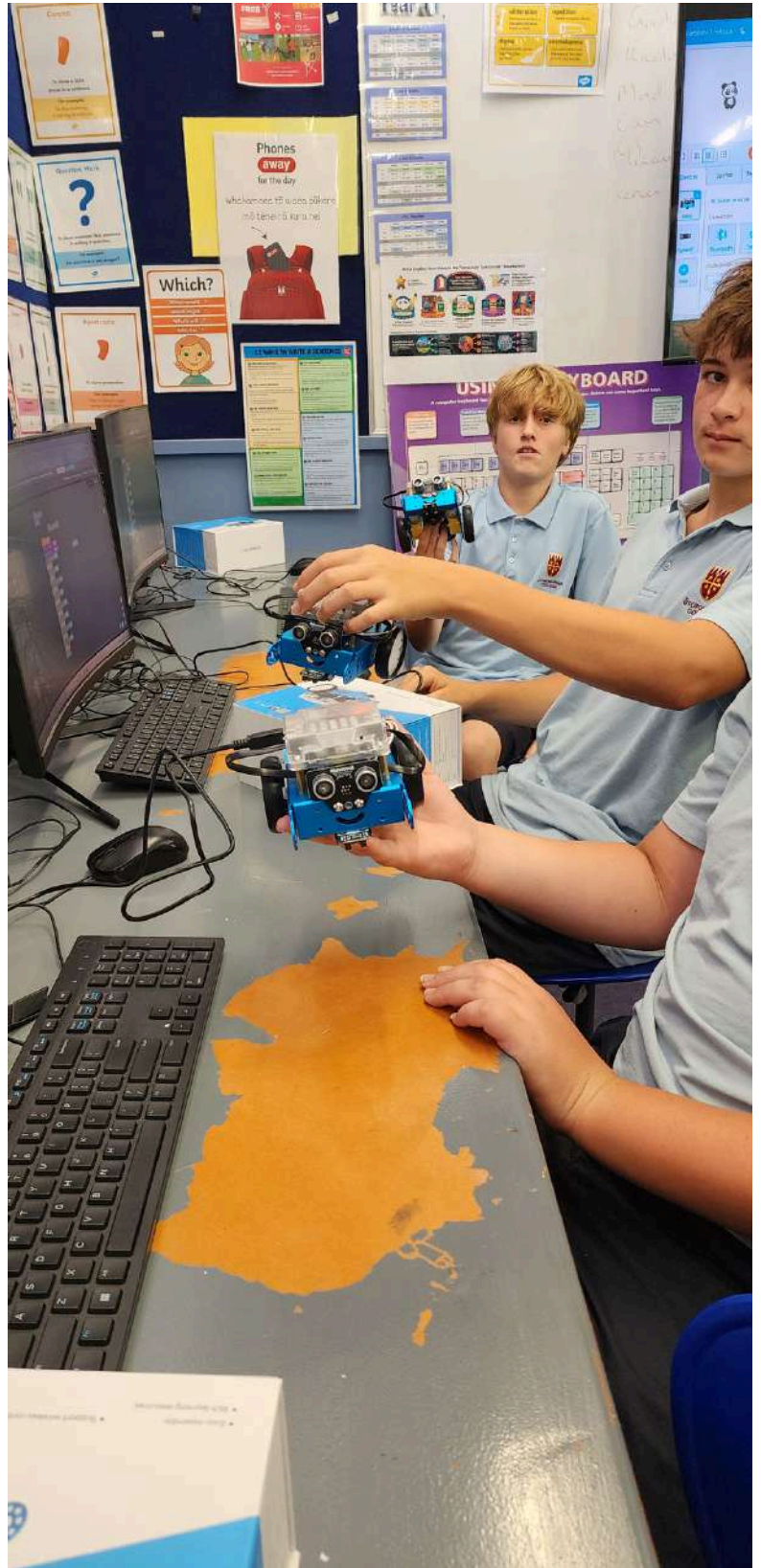


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TECHNOLOGY FACULTY

Juniors Digital Technology

10 Moana and 9 Motu have completed their term of Digital Technologies with coding. In particular they have been tinkering with robots and doing some introductory programming using these as a way of understanding their code by applying it to something that gives them a tangible response. We have had meterboard challenges and it has been a great joy to watch the Year 9s express how much they have enjoyed coding and testing the Edison Robots. The Year 10s have had an additional challenge of assembling their mBots and getting them working correctly. This is a decent challenge and 10 Moana have done superbly well with this. It has been particularly fantastic to see how engaged and confident our juniors have been this term, with a new technological challenge like this.



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Fun Day

Colour Run

If life hands you colour ...
run with it



Our second annual Colour Run, held on Thursday, was a resounding success, with students fully engaged and contributing vibrant energy to the event. Popular attractions such as the fire truck slip-and-slide and food trucks once again delighted attendees, while new features like the obstacle course and sponge throwing introduced additional excitement.

It was truly wonderful to witness the enthusiastic participation of students as they supported one another and embraced the spirit of fun. The day served as a remarkable celebration of physical activity, College spirit and the fostering of positive relationships throughout the College community.



Cross Country

Run your own race.
Run and be happy.

A near-perfect running day greeted us for the 2026 Cross Country, with clear skies, great energy and an awesome display of determination from all students. The course was set, the competition was fierce and it was fantastic to see so many students pushing themselves and supporting one another across all age groups.

Our Junior Boys kicked things off over the 3km course, showing great enthusiasm and effort from the outset. This was followed by the Intermediate Boys tackling the challenging 4km distance, before our Senior Boys took on the full 5km course, demonstrating resilience and strong race strategy throughout.

The girls' races were just as impressive. The Junior Girls took on the 3km course with determination, while the Intermediate and Senior Girls powered through their 4km races, showing grit, perseverance and some outstanding finishing sprints.

A huge thank you to our staff positioned out on the course at key turn points, ensuring safety and encouraging runners every step of the way. Your support plays a massive role in the success of the day.

Beyond the placings, it was awesome to see strong participation across all Houses, with valuable points earned through both effort and involvement. Events like this highlight the spirit of our kura getting involved, giving it a go and backing each other.

Congratulations to all runners who placed in their respective races and well done to every student who took part. Whether you were racing for a top finish or simply challenging yourself to complete the course, you represented your House with pride.



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WINTEC

STAR Sport Science Taster

On Monday, four College students delved into the realms of sport science, exercise training, nutrition and human performance at the WINTEC Rotokauri Campus in Hamilton. They explored the offerings of the Centre for Sport Science and Human Performance. Throughout the day, tutors facilitated a practical, engaging and interactive experience, allowing students to gain insights into various programmes, potential career paths and applicable skills. Participants engaged with technology, lab equipment and hands-on body testing, enriching their understanding of the field.



Conferences Parent, Student And Teacher Conferences

It was wonderful to see our College community come together this past Wednesday, April 1st, for our Parent, Student And Teacher Conferences. From 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, the College was buzzing with a shared commitment to student success and growth.

The atmosphere was set right from the front door. Our talented Baristas took over the Foyer, serving up professional-grade hot drinks throughout the day. Not only did this provide a warm welcome for our visiting families, but it also gave our Hospitality students a fantastic opportunity to showcase their skills in a high-pressure, real-world setting.

The heart of the day, of course, was the dialogue between home and the College. These meetings provided a vital space to celebrate achievements, identify next steps and strengthen connections.

Thank you to all the families who were able to join us.

Key Dates

Monday 20 th April	Term Two Starts
Monday 27 th April	ANZAC Day Observed
Tuesday 28 th April	Teacher Only Day
Friday 15 th May	Pink Shirt Day
Monday 18 th May	Photolife
Tuesday 19 th May	Ōtorohanga College Board Meeting
Tuesday 26 th May	Reading CAA
Wednesday 27 th May	Writing CAA
Thursday 28 th May	Numeracy CAA
Monday 1 st June	King's Birthday
Wednesday 10 th June	Production Evening Performance
Thursday 11 th June	Production Evening Performance
Friday 12 th June	Production Evening Performance
Tuesday 23 rd June	Ōtorohanga College Board Meeting
Friday 26 th June	College Ball
Friday 3 rd July	Matariki Celebration Day
	Term Two Ends

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