

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Three, Week Four
Monday 17th August – Friday 21th August 2026

Science FACULTY

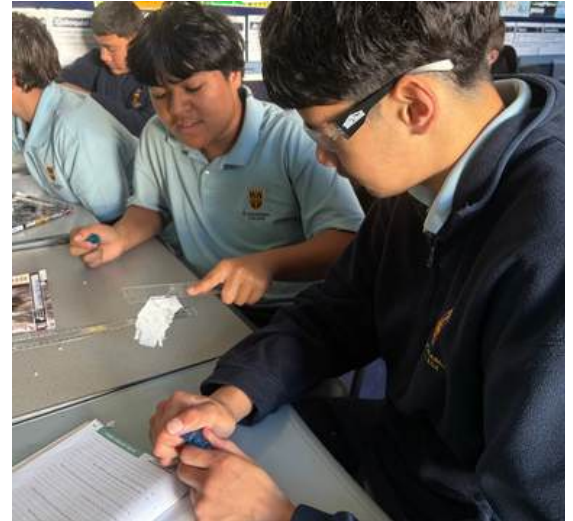
It has been a busy term for the Science Faculty!

Our Year 11 to 13 students are wrapping up their course learning and turning their focus toward exam preparation. Derived Grade Examinations will take place from 14 September to 21 September followed by the NCEA External Examinations in November.

Level 1 Agriculture students have kicked off spring planting in the College gardens, while the Senior Agriculture class has taken learning outdoors to identify local amenity plantings. Meanwhile, students in the AgVenture Module are scouring wool in preparation for dyeing as part of their Journey of Wool unit.

Inside the classroom, Year 10 students have wrapped up their unit on Microbes and have now begun their new unit on Electricity. Practical experiments are a hit with the students, especially the Van der Graaf generator.

Finally, a major highlight for both staff and students is the official start of construction converting the old Library into our brand-new, modern Science Laboratories!



Empowering learners to succeed

Germanium, Nickel, Uranium, Sulfur = GeNiUS

Deputy Principal



HAUORA

Whāea
Jane Keir

Kia Ora Koutou

It is already half way through the Term and Spring is just around the corner. With the change in season we are still having some cold days – there are plenty of jackets in my clothing cupboard for any student who needs one, just send them to me.

Student Leadership – Over the coming weeks we will be recruiting for the 2027 Student Leadership Team. This is an exciting opportunity for our senior students to consider and something they can discuss with you at home should they wish to apply. I would like to acknowledge and thank our current Student Leaders who have been working hard this past couple of terms to organise and lead our Formal College Assemblies with me. We have had some very interesting guest speakers – most recently Ben Purua inspired our students – you can find more information here: <https://www.celebrityspeakers.co.nz/speakers/ben-purua>

Five Ways to Wellbeing



The 5 Ways to Wellbeing encourage habits that help us feel happier, healthier, more connected and ready to learn. Small actions every day can make a big difference to our wellbeing. When we Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give, we create a College where everyone feels valued, supported and able to flourish. This term we are focussing on –  Keep Learning. Challenge yourself to learn something new. Every new skill, idea, or experience builds confidence, curiosity and resilience. Learning happens both inside and outside the classroom.

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:

1. Connect with your child's Empower Whakamana teacher
2. Connect with your child's Dean
3. Make an appointment with the DP 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>

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.

Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal



Achievement Stoffel Wilken

The Only Constant....

As we navigate the shift toward the Ministry's new Knowledge-Rich Curriculum, we are proactively equipping staff to ensure a seamless transition for our students. With our Mathematics and English faculties successfully launching the new curriculum this year, we are using 2026 to build momentum and fully prepare all remaining subject areas for their rollout in 2027.

Behind the scenes, our staff are engaged in robust professional development to ensure teaching and learning remain top-tier:

- Teachers are collaborating to explore newly released resources, dissect curriculum shifts and share best practices for classroom delivery at fortnightly Curriculum Meetings.
- Heads of Faculty are working directly with a Curriculum Advisor on curriculum mapping, while dedicated Faculty meeting time is set aside to unpack subject-specific Knowledge and Practice statements.
- We are developing standardised planning templates to streamline preparation across all Faculties.
- To stay ahead, we have already introduced the new reporting structure and Progress Descriptors across all subjects, alongside SMART assessments to closely track and support our Junior students' Literacy and Numeracy growth.
- Our Senior Leadership Team meets regularly with Ministry representatives to guarantee our implementation strategy aligns perfectly with national expectations.

Through this structured, forward-thinking approach, our teachers are well-supported, confident and ready to inspire our students as we pave the way for 2027.

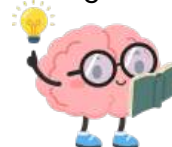
Small Steps, Big Success

Ensuring every student is supported to reach their full potential requires a complete picture of both their academic achievement and personal wellbeing. This year, we have upgraded our approach to tracking student progress, giving our staff real-time visibility into attendance, NCEA certificate progress, engagement data and Literacy and Numeracy attainment.

These live insights allow us to step in early with targeted academic and pastoral care:

- Deans can regularly review live data with students to map out their progress, celebrate wins and build tailored support plans to help them achieve their NCEA qualifications.
- To build confidence for Common Assessment Activities, over and above in-class support, we are running lunchtime and after-College workshops for Mathematics, alongside dedicated Google Classrooms packed with preparation resources for Literacy.
- We are actively exploring additional learning pathways to give students varied, flexible opportunities to secure their Literacy and Numeracy credits.
- We are updating our SAC entitlements across all year levels to ensure every student has the exact accommodations they need to perform at their best.

By pairing live data with hands-on, compassionate support, we are making sure no student journeys through their qualification alone.



**NEVER
STOP
LEARNING**



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

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