



ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Three, Week Five – Monday 11th August – Friday 15th August 2025

PATHWAYS FACULTY

Pathways Weekly Highlight

It has been a very busy term for the Pathways Department! One of the recent highlights was our Year 13 students participating in a comprehensive First Aid course, delivered by David from Safety 'n Action. The session covered the importance of first aid and equipped students with practical skills such as CPR, as well as how to effectively respond to various emergencies – including managing bleeds, burns, fractures, soft tissue injuries and poison exposure.

The knowledge gained will not only empower our students to assist others in critical situations, but also enhance their confidence and readiness for real-world challenges. A big thank you to David for his expertise and for keeping our students engaged and focused throughout the session!



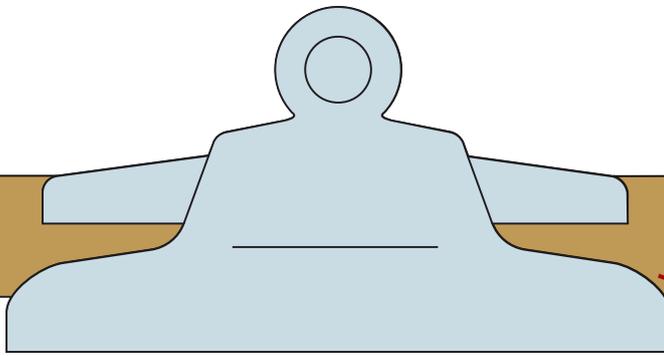
Year 9 Career Speed Dating Event

On Thursday, our Year 9 students took part in a dynamic Career Speed Dating event held in the College Hall. With the participation of 15 local businesses, students had the unique opportunity to explore a variety of industries, gain insight into potential career pathways and learn about the skills and qualifications required in different fields.

This interactive experience not only broadened their understanding of the world of work, but also sparked meaningful conversations about their future ambitions. A big thank you to all the businesses who generously gave their time to support our students!



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TAHA TINANA CHALLENGE

Next week, whilst senior students are on study leave, we challenge all our students to:

1. Plank Power: Hold a plank for one minute on three different afternoons this week.
2. Sit-Up Stretch: Complete as many sit-ups as you can in two minutes, three times this week.
3. Lunge into Action: Do three sets of 10 lunges (10 per leg) on three afternoons this week.
4. Mix it Up: On your other active days, try a walk around the block, a bike ride to the local park, or shoot some hoops with a friend.

Share your photos or videos to win!

Snap a photo or take a video of you doing the challenge and send it to us at tehuiav@otocoll.school.nz - you will be in the draw to win one of three \$25 Prezzy cards. Make sure you get permission from anyone else in your photo or video.

We cannot wait to see what you get up to!



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YES BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Fifty dedicated entrepreneurs participated in the Young Enterprise Business Challenge (YES) in the Hall over three days. Our Year 10s were joined by 15 Te Awamutu College students and together they worked in teams to create viable business ideas. When asked to describe the challenge in four words or less many said “fun and challenging” and an “enjoyable experience”.

It was pleasing to see so many students step out of their comfort zone and try new things such as public speaking, take on leadership roles like CEO, finance or production manager. There was a noticeable growth in confidence in all students' from day one to day three.

On the final day of the challenge, the Hall was transformed into a business hub. Our five local guest judges circulated each team, for an 8 minute run down of each business. The teams presented their finance plan, the goals and aspirations, sustainability goals and marketing strategies. We would like to extend our thanks to the judges for taking time to come in and support our rangatahi; Duncan Coull, Kara Thomas, Max Baxter, Nicky Deeley and Tasmyn Roach.

The top two teams were as follows:

Air-o-clean Depolluting Drone

Team list:

Alex Willson

Gryphon Macpheron

Jasmine Downs-Bryant

Mikayla Fisher

Raniera Wharepouri

Geoff Bartolo (Te Awamutu College)

Lumea

Team list:

Katie Neilson

Nathaniel Harland

Roger Medina

Wiremu Blackman

Ruby Pryor (Te Awamutu College)

One student from each College was picked as overall hero, or top entrepreneur. The winner of this title for our College was Raniera Wharepouri.



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L1 WAITOMO

Geography Level One

Last Friday, the Geography Level One class ventured out to Waitomo for research towards an assessment. It was a stunning day in Waitomo and the students were able to enjoy the boat ride in the Glowworm Cave and also a wander in the Museum. For a handful of students, it was their first time in the Glowworm Cave and they were blown away by the natural beauty.



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ACTIVE AS AMBASSADORS

Active As Update

It has been a busy time for Active As! We have been working hard to get our lunchtime games up and running, giving students more opportunities to get active and have fun during their breaks. Construction is almost underway for our brand-new outdoor beach volleyball court, which will be an exciting addition to our College grounds.

We are thrilled to have been gifted 10 VR headsets from Sport Waikato, which we will be intergrating into PE to boost engagement and provide unique activity options in different areas of the College. There are lots of moving parts right now, but it is all aimed at one goal - getting students engaged, active and enjoying their time at College.

Active As Ambassadors Voice

We are developing a new VR gaming setup at the College so students can make the most of their break times. Soon, we will have 10 VR headsets ready to go at lunchtimes. This will give students who are not into traditional sports or who cannot fit them into their schedules, the chance to head to our new tech room at interval or lunch, pop on a headset and get active in a whole new way.

Alongside this, our shipping container is run by our dedicated Active As Ambassadors, who organise and hand out gear for students to use during breaks.

We have got everything from volleyballs, rugby balls and soccer balls to outdoor games like Spikeball and Connect Four.

Written by Cooper Burgess – Active As Ambassador



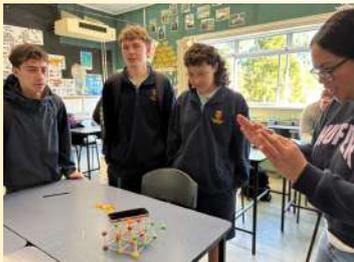
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PŪHORO

Here at Ōtorohanga College we are privileged to be a part of the Pūhoro STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Mātauranga Māori) Academy. Launched in 2016, Pūhoro was developed in response to national low engagement of Māori in STEM-related career pathways that subsequently leads to lower numbers of Māori representation in science and technology industries in Aotearoa. Pūhoro seeks to change this space and recognises that a STEM workforce is required for an innovation-focused future society.

Each week Kaihautū come into the College to spend time with tauira who are taking STEM subjects. Over the year they have engaged with our tauira in a variety of activities that include Mātauranga Māori, life skills, life beyond College, specific subject tutoring and snapshots of STEM careers.

This week it was an introduction to engineering. They were introduced to the different branches of engineering and given a brief overview of the education required and the industries associated with each branch. Mechanical and Structural engineering was delved into on a deeper level and the tauira were given a wero/challenge to complete. This was to build the tallest possible tower with a given number of toothpicks and winegums that was capable of supporting a cellphone for 10 seconds. It was a session that was eye opening as well as enjoyable for our tauira.



KEY DATES AND FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Derived Grade Exams - 18th - 22nd August
- Year 7 and Year 8 Experience Day - Tuesday 19th August
- UNISS Netball Tournament - 25th - 29th August
- Photolife Team Photographs - Tuesday 2nd September
- Netball End Of Season Celebration - Wednesday 3rd September
- Reports emailed to parents - Friday 5th September
- Parent, Student and Teacher Conferences - Monday 8th September
- CAA Writing - Tuesday 9th September
- CAA Reading - Wednesday 10th September
- CAA Numberacy - Thursday 11th September
- Waiwaia Festival - 18th September
- Term 3 ends - 19th September

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