

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Three, Week One
Monday 20th July – Friday 24th July 2026



Principal

Lyndsay Kurth

From The Principal's Desk

Kia ora, Nau mai, haere mai, Ni sa bula vinaka, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei.

Welcome to Term Three. I hope you and your whānau had the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved break and spend quality time together. We are excited to welcome our students back and look forward to another busy and rewarding term.

Term Three is always an important part of the College year, but it carries particular significance for our senior students. For those in Years 11, 12 and 13, this is their last full term before they begin external examinations and for some, prepare to leave College. It is a time when consistent attendance, positive learning habits and sustained effort become more important than ever.

Over the coming weeks, our teachers will continue working closely with students to ensure they are well prepared for their NCEA assessments and examinations. We encourage our senior students to make the most of every lesson, seek support when they need it and remain focused on achieving the goals they have set for themselves. Your encouragement at home can make a significant difference by reinforcing the importance of attendance, organisation, study routines and maintaining a healthy balance between College, work and wellbeing.

For our junior students, Term Three is an opportunity to continue building strong foundations for future success. The learning, skills and habits they develop now will support them as they progress into the senior years. We encourage every student to challenge themselves, become involved in the many opportunities available and continue striving to be the very best version of themselves.

As always, College life extends well beyond the classroom. Throughout the term our students will participate in a wide range of sporting and cultural events. These experiences help build confidence, resilience, leadership and friendships while fostering a strong sense of belonging within our College community.

At Ōtorohanga College, our vision is to Empower Learners To Succeed. We remain committed to providing a supportive environment where every young person is encouraged to grow academically, socially and personally. Our dedicated staff continue to work tirelessly to ensure every student feels known, valued and supported throughout their learning journey.

Thank you for the ongoing partnership you have with our College. Education is most successful when schools and families work together and we greatly appreciate the support, encouragement and trust you place in us. Your involvement in your child's education plays a vital role in helping them achieve success.

We look forward to another exciting term and to celebrating the many achievements of our students over the weeks ahead. Together, let us make Term Three one of growth, opportunity and success for every learner.

Thank you for your continued support of Ōtorohanga College.

Ngā mihi nui
Lyndsay Kurth
Principal

Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal



Achievement

Stoffel Wilken

Changes Are Coming...

Starting in 2027, all Year 9 and 10 students will learn under the updated New Zealand Curriculum | Te Mātaiaho, across all subjects.

Here is what these changes mean for our students and College community:

- **Clear And Consistent Learning:** The refreshed curriculum sets out a clear, step-by-step roadmap for every school year. This ensures every student, no matter where they are, gains the same rich foundation of knowledge and skills without leaving gaps in their education.
- **Grounded In What Works:** Built on proven insights from the "science of learning," teaching is designed to build logically year after year—deepening understanding, critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity over time.
- **Rooted In Aotearoa New Zealand:** Content is tailored for our place in the world, embracing te ao Māori, our Pacific connections and our diverse society, alongside essential global knowledge.
- **Giving Teachers Freedom To Inspire:** Having a clear national blueprint gives our teachers more time to do what they do best: creating vibrant, engaging classroom activities tailored to our local community and students' unique strengths.

Ultimately, this transition is all about equity and excellence—giving every student the tools they need to succeed in College, their future careers and their broader community. We look forward to sharing more updates as we prepare for 2027.

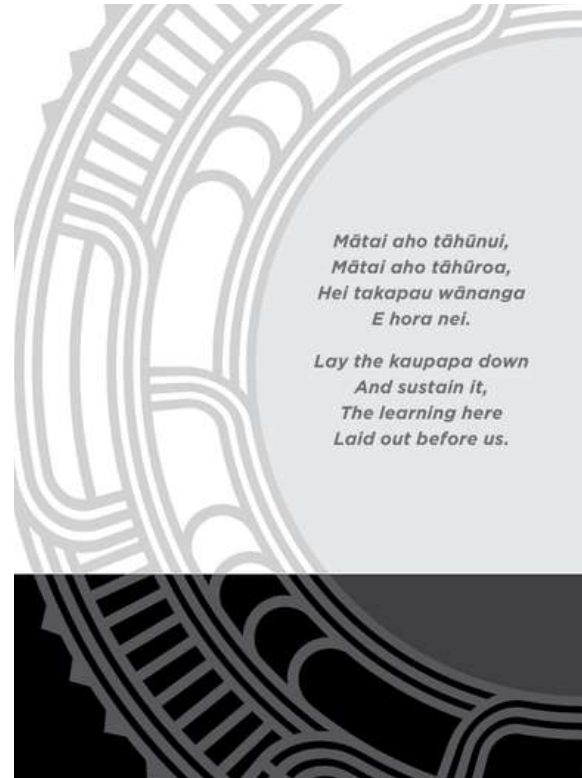
Alongside our Year 9 and 10 updates, planning is already underway for changes to our Senior Curriculum as NCEA is phased out and replaced with a new qualification pathway starting in 2028.

Here is what the timeline looks like:

- 2028 (Year 11): Introduction of the new Foundational Award.
- 2029 (Year 12): Introduction of the New Zealand Certificate of Education (NZCE).
- 2030 (Year 13): Introduction of the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education (NZACE).

We are actively preparing for these upcoming changes to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for all our senior students as these new qualifications roll out. We look forward to sharing more updates as we prepare for the next few years.

Empowering learners to succeed



Health and PE Faculty

Health and Physical Education

Welcome to Term Three. We hope everyone has had a well-deserved break and is feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting term. There is plenty happening across the Health and Physical Education Faculty and students have returned with great enthusiasm and energy.

In practical Physical Education lessons, all classes have hit the ground running as they prepare for the upcoming King Country Secondary Schools tournaments. The focus over the first few weeks is on developing the skills, tactics and teamwork required for KC Badminton in Week 2 and KC Volleyball in Week 3. It has been fantastic to see students supporting one another while building confidence and improving their performances in both sports. We wish all students representing Ōtorohanga College the very best in the upcoming competitions.

This term also welcomes two new Junior fitness Modules with 9 Wai and 10 Wairere beginning their fitness journeys. The first week has been all about laying strong foundations by developing basic fitness, learning to move safely and understanding the many benefits that regular physical activity has on every aspect of hauora and wellbeing.

Students have also been introduced to a range of training equipment and machines, learning how to use each one safely and effectively. With these introductions now complete, the classes are ready to begin their pre-testing and collection of baseline fitness data. This information will help students monitor their progress as they work through a full term of regular training, goal setting and personal improvement.

Junior Health students have settled back into the classroom and are excited to begin their learning journey around the topic of Sexuality. Here they will explore ideas around healthy and unhealthy relationships, hygiene and pubertal change, positive attitudes and keeping ourselves safe around consent and sexual health.

Senior Health students have a busy term ahead with internal assessments and external exam preparation. Year 12 Health students will be focusing on Mental Health and actions that can be taken to support this within our own kura. Year 13 students will be examining health issues affecting New Zealand adolescents.

It is shaping up to be another fantastic term in the Health and Physical Education. We look forward to seeing our students continue to challenge themselves, support each other and develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead active and healthy lives.



Key Dates

Sunday 30th August – Friday 4th September
Monday 7th September
Tuesday 8th September
Wednesday 9th September
Thursday 10th September
Monday 14th September – 21st September
Wednesday 16th September

Thursday 24th September
Friday 25th 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 School Cultural Festival
End of Term Three