

# ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Two, Week Eleven  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

And just like that, we have reached the end of Term Two.

It is hard to believe how quickly the past eleven weeks have passed. At the beginning of the term, we encouraged our students to embrace every opportunity, remain consistent in their learning and bring their very best to Ōtorohanga College. Looking back now, we can confidently say they have done exactly that. It has been a remarkable term filled with growth, perseverance, achievement and moments that have made us incredibly proud.

Term Two is always one of the busiest and most demanding parts of the College year, yet our students have continued to rise to every challenge. In the classroom, they have engaged thoughtfully with their learning, made excellent progress towards qualifications and demonstrated increasing confidence and independence. Beyond the classroom, they have represented our College with pride through winter sports, cultural events, leadership opportunities and a wide range of co-curricular activities that have showcased the many talents within our College.

At Ōtorohanga College, we are committed to developing young people who are not only successful learners, but also respectful, resilient and connected members of their community. This term, we have seen those qualities shine through in so many ways. Whether striving for personal excellence, supporting others or representing the College beyond our gates, our students have continued to uphold the values that make our College such a special place.

Behind every student's success is a team of dedicated staff who work tirelessly to encourage, challenge and support them each day. Their commitment to creating meaningful learning experiences and fostering positive relationships is something we are deeply grateful for.

We would also like to sincerely thank you, our parents, caregivers and whānau, for your ongoing support and partnership. The strong connection between home and the College plays a vital role in every student's success. Your encouragement, communication and presence at College events make a genuine difference and we appreciate the trust you place in us to work alongside you in supporting your child's learning and wellbeing.

The term break provides a well-earned opportunity for everyone to pause, rest and reconnect with whānau and friends. We encourage all students to take time to recharge so they return refreshed and ready for the exciting opportunities that Term Three will bring. For our senior students, it is also an ideal time to reflect on their progress, celebrate what they have achieved so far and prepare for the important assessments and milestones that lie ahead.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the term and for the privilege of working alongside your children. We wish all members of our College community a safe, relaxing and enjoyable term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting and successful term.

Ngā mihi nui  
Lyndsay Kurth  
Principal

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# Deputy Principal

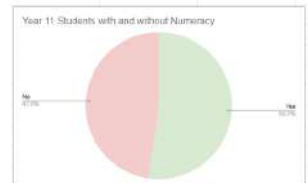
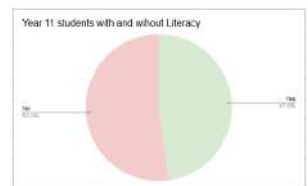


## Achievement Stoffel Wilken

As we wrap up Term Two, it is incredible to look back at how much our students have achieved. What began as a high-energy start quickly transformed into a period of deep focus, with students dedicated to sharpening their academic skills and seizing practical pathways to success.

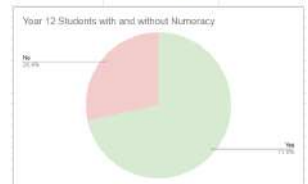
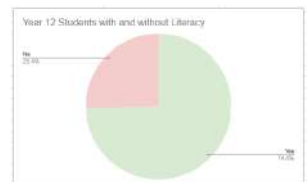
### Year 11 Achievement

- **Credit Progress:** Our Year 11 students have earned an average of 31 credits to date. Keep in mind that Level One standards are large and intentionally take time to fully complete!
- **Literacy & Numeracy:** Currently, 47.8% of the cohort have secured their Literacy and 52.2% have achieved Numeracy.



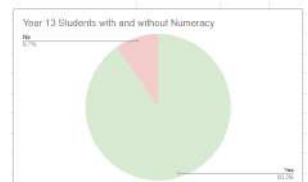
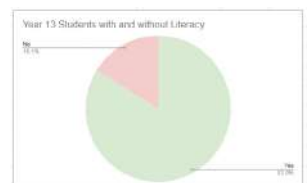
### Year 12 Achievement

- **Credit Progress:** Year 12 students are maintaining strong academic momentum, tracking at an average of 36 credits earned to date.
- **Literacy & Numeracy:** 74% of students have achieved Literacy and 71.6% have secured Numeracy.



### Year 13 Achievement

- **Credit Progress:** Our Year 13 students are tracking at an average of 29 credits to date as they balance advanced internal and external workloads.
- **Literacy & Numeracy:** Cohort achievement is sitting strong with 83.9% holding Literacy and 90.3% holding Numeracy.



### Looking Ahead: Results Updates

We expect these tracking numbers to steadily increase over the coming weeks as more data is finalised.

- **CAA Results:** The Reading results were released on 23 June, and the Writing and Numeracy results are scheduled to be released on 20 July. These will provide a great boost to our Literacy and Numeracy stats across all year levels.
- **Vocational Pathways:** Pathways and Gateway results for our Year 12 and 13 students will also be filtering in shortly, reflecting the practical hands-on success of our students.



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# Deputy Principal



## HAUORA

Whāea  
Jane Keir

Kia ora koutou

As we approach the end of Term, I am aware of how tired our students are and how much their wellbeing will benefit from a couple of weeks of term break to rest up. As a wellbeing initiative we have begun to implement The 5 Ways to Wellbeing here at College for both staff and students this term. Wellbeing is something we can all build through small, everyday actions. 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.

### Five Ways to Wellbeing



#### **Connect**

Build positive relationships with others. Spend time with friends, whānau, classmates and colleagues. A simple conversation, smile or act of kindness can make a real difference.

#### **Be Active**

Move your body every day in ways you enjoy. Whether it is walking, playing sports, dancing, gardening or simply getting outside, being active supports both physical and mental wellbeing.

#### **Take Notice**

Slow down and pay attention to the present moment. Notice the people, nature and experiences around you. Practising gratitude and mindfulness helps us appreciate everyday moments.

#### **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.

#### **Give**

Helping others benefits everyone. Share your time, encouragement, skills or kindness. Small acts of generosity strengthen our College community and create a sense of belonging.

When we Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give, we create a College where everyone feels valued, supported and able to flourish.

### **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 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>

**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.**

Nga mihi nui  
Jane Keir

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# English Faculty

## Reflections on Term Two

As we wrap up another action-packed term, the English Faculty reflects on a period filled with academic milestones and creative expressions. Our students across all year levels have shown incredible dedication to their literacy and communication skills.

Back in May, our Year 10, 11 and 12 students faced a significant milestone as they sat the Common Assessment Activities (CAA). We are absolutely thrilled to report that we received some very good results! A massive congratulations to all the students who passed and secured these foundational credits. Your hard work and resilience have truly paid off. For those students who did not quite get across the line this time, please be reassured that this is simply a stepping stone. You will have another opportunity to aim for this qualification in September and we have every confidence that with continued focus, you will achieve success.

The junior classrooms have been buzzing with creative energy. Our Year 9 and 10 students have been busy completing their comprehensive novel studies. To demonstrate their understanding of these texts, students took on the challenge of writing character essays' diving deep into the motivations and triumphs of their favourite literary figures. To round out the term, the juniors shifted gears from structured essays to more creative mediums. Students have been busy creating striking visual images that represent the core themes of their novels. Alongside this, they have been working hard on crafting their own newspaper reports, learning how to hook a reader, write objectively and structure a compelling news story.

Meanwhile, our senior classes have been intensely focused on NCEA progression. Both Year 11 and Year 12 students have been working through internal Achievement Standards. A major focus this term has been producing high-quality written pieces to contribute towards their vital University Entrance (UE) writing portfolios. The hard work does not stop here. Looking ahead to next term, these senior students will need to maintain their momentum to finalise these portfolios. Additionally, Term 3 will see them pivoting toward external exam preparation, where they will refine their essay-writing skills under timed conditions.

Thank you to all our students and whānau for a fantastic Term 2. Have a safe and restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed for Term 3 and beyond.



### Around The Table Module

This term, our Year 9 students celebrated the conclusion of their "Around The Table" Module with a vibrant Mexican-themed showcase. Working in groups, students researched Mexican culture before designing and decorating their own themed tables, creating authentic menu displays and preparing a range of delicious Mexican-inspired dishes. Their creativity, teamwork and attention to detail transformed the room into a colourful celebration of culture and cuisine.

A special thank you goes to our amazing Year 11 buddies, who supported the students throughout the showcase. They encouraged, guided and assisted with food preparation and presentation, helping our Year 9s build confidence while creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere. It was fantastic to see older and younger students working together so positively, making the showcase a memorable experience for everyone involved.



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# Matariki

## Quiz

On Monday at lunchtime our Matariki celebrations started with an inter-House Matariki Quiz. Each team had 4 players who answered 50 questions about the Matariki stars, traditions, history and a fun round of questions including "Finish The Lyric" and a performance of the Matariki Macarena.

## Final Placings

1st	Kedgley
2nd	Eveleigh
3rd	Brown
4th	Hotson

## A Taste of Matariki: Student Bakers Get Creative!

The enticing aroma of baking has been filling the air as students prepare for the upcoming Matariki celebrations. Putting a creative twist on traditional treats, they have been crafting uniquely shaped gingerbread and horopito biscuits. Integrating the peppery, native horopito leaf into their baking gave students a wonderful, hands-on way to connect with the flavours of Aotearoa as we welcome the New Year. Keep an eye out—some of these beautiful creations might just make it home for sharing!



## Wearable Arts House Competition

The Matariki Wearable Arts show was a spectacular celebration of creativity, culture and community. Bringing together stunning visual design and the spirit of the Māori New Year, the event showcased an outstanding array of student creations, leaving the audience spellbound. Each piece was a testament to the students' imagination, transforming crepe paper and ribbons into breathtaking wearable masterpieces that honoured the stars of Matariki.

What truly set the event apart was the incredible teamwork on display. Each House collaborated seamlessly behind the scenes, pooling their unique skills in design, construction and performance to bring their collective visions to life. Each kai kōrero for the House delivered a 30-second speech on the key components of their Wearable Arts design and how it reflects Matariki. This strong sense of unity and shared purpose was outstanding, reflecting the very essence of Matariki—coming together to reflect, celebrate and look toward the future.

Judging the show was tough due to the high calibre of designs and confidence of each model that represented their House. We would like to thank Bronwyn Tubman and Kayla Chetwin for volunteering their time to support us with our House competition.



# Matariki

## Remembrance and Goal Setting Wall



### REMEMBRANCE (Matariki Hunga Nui)

Honouring those who have passed away since the last rising.

### CELEBRATING THE PRESENT (Matariki Ahunga Nui)

Gathering with family and friends to share food and give thanks.

### CELEBRATING THE PRESENT (Matariki Ahunga Nui)

Setting intentions, planning and looking forward to the promise of the new year.

## Uniting for Matariki

Matariki is a time of remembrance, gratitude and renewal. It reminds us to honour those who came before us, to give thanks for what we have and to look forward with hope to what we can become in the future.

Here at our College, we are proud to bring Matariki to life in a way that reflects who we are. This week we have had a Matariki Quiz, a Matariki Wearable Arts Competition, a Matariki Remembrance and Goals display, a House Haka competition and a Matariki lunch together. This has been about more than a competition – it has been about a time to enjoy what we can do when we stand together.

At the heart of this day are the values Matariki teaches us:

**Unity** – working together as one whānau

**Gratitude** – acknowledging our blessings and those who support us

**Renewal** – setting new goals, planting new seeds and stepping forward with purpose

**Mānawatia a Matariki** – let us celebrate and honour this special time together.



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# Sports

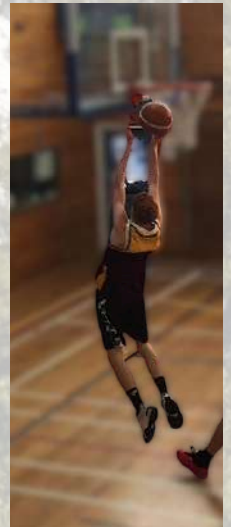
## Inglewood Sports Exchange

### Inglewood High School Sports Exchange

Tuesday's Sports Exchange saw Inglewood High School prove too strong on home turf, taking out the day across nine hard-fought codes. From the first whistle to the final siren, our ākonga gave everything they had and the standard of competition on display did both schools proud. While the scoreboard favoured our visitors, the real story of the day was the spirit in which it was played. Fierce competition was matched every step of the way by outstanding sportsmanship from players on both sides, a true reflection of what these exchanges are all about. Congratulations to Inglewood High School on a well deserved win. Thank you to our ringa wera, coaches, staff and whānau who helped make the day possible and to everyone who came down to support our teams across the codes. We are already looking forward to welcoming Inglewood back to Ōtorohanga when we host the exchange in 2027. Until then, ka mau te wehi to all our rangatahi who pulled on the maroon and gold.

### Student Perspective - Miriora Crown

The Inglewood exchange was a day I will never forget. Many things went wrong, but our school kept pushing forward. It all started with the bus ride. The girls bus was freezing and eight lots of road works put us behind schedule. As soon as we got there, we were welcomed by a beautiful karanga and haka powhiri. These Inglewood students could sure sing, I thought while walking in. The sun gleamed down the Taranaki maunga and stared down at us while we played some competitive games. Since I played two sports (netball and 7s) the day was very full and fast. Even though our College did not win we sure enjoyed it and cannot wait for a fierce competition next year, when Inglewood comes to us.



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# Sports

## Genazzano FCJ College - Netball

### Genazzano FCJ College

The Ōtorohanga College A, B Senior and B Junior and Genazzano FCJ College netball teams produced a fantastic afternoon of competitive netball on Wednesday, with both sides displaying skill, determination and outstanding sportsmanship.

Travelling from Melbourne, Australia, the girls from Genazzano FCJ College brought intensity and flair to the court, providing a tough challenge for the Ōtorohanga College teams. Every quarter was fiercely contested, with all teams demonstrating excellent teamwork, disciplined defence and accurate shooting under pressure.

The match was played in great spirit, with players competing hard while showing respect for one another throughout. It was a valuable opportunity for both teams to test themselves against quality opposition, build new connections and enjoy the experience of international school sport.

Ōtorohanga College would like to thank Genazzano FCJ College for making the trip across the Tasman and for the entertaining and memorable matches. We wish them all the best for the remainder of their New Zealand tour and hope to welcome them back again in the future.



## Key Dates

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September – 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Term Three begins  
Course Selection Information Evening  
UNISS Netball Tournament  
CAA Reading  
CAA Writing  
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