

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Two, Week One
Monday 20th April – Friday 24th April 2026



Principal Lyndsay Kurth

Welcome, Nau mai, haere mai, Ni sa bula vinaka, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your whānau to Term Two at Ōtorohanga College. We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break and that students are returning refreshed, re-energised and ready for the term ahead. A special welcome again to any families who are new to our community this term - we are delighted to have you join us. To those who continue with us, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Term Two is always a significant part of the academic year. It is a time where learning programmes deepen, expectations become clearer and students are encouraged to build on the foundations established in Term One. There is a strong focus on consistency, effort and progress, as well as preparing students for upcoming assessments and qualifications. Alongside academic learning, there are many opportunities for students to be involved in winter sports, cultural activities and leadership experiences, all of which contribute to a well-rounded education.

At Ōtorohanga College, we remain committed to creating a learning environment where every student feels supported, challenged and inspired. We want our young people to develop not only academically, but also as confident, resilient and respectful individuals who are prepared for life beyond College. Our staff work hard to provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences and to know each student as an individual - understanding their strengths, their goals and the support they need to succeed.

A key part of student success is the partnership between home and the College. Your encouragement, interest and communication make a real difference. We value the role you play in supporting your child's learning and we encourage you to stay connected with us whether through conversations with teachers, attending events, or keeping up to date with College communications. Together, we can ensure that each student is well supported to make the most of every opportunity.

As always, thank you for the privilege of working with your child. We are proud of our students and the way they represent our College and we look forward to a term filled with learning, growth, connection and achievement.

Ngā mihi nui
Warmest regards

Lyndsay Kurth
Principal

From the Principal's desk

Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal



Hauora Whāea
Jane Keir

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to Term 2, a term of two seasons - autumn and winter! We are well stocked with College jackets and shoes available for free from our uniform room so please do remind your child to come and see me for these items.

Our students have made a great start back to College, with a new initiative already underway - Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD). SADD came and presented to our students this week and then two students, Nicole Jones and Marua Davis both Year 12 students, chose to create and lead a group for our College. The photo shows the newly formed group pretending to drive! Keep a look out for information and events coming soon from them.



House Captain Student Leader
Tylah Ostern

We are delighted to announce that Tylah Ostern has won the Hotson House Captain role for the remainder of this year. Our Student Leaders are very busy planning for Formal College Assemblies this term and running a Fundraising Fluro Mufti for St John Ambulances - more info coming soon from them.

Attendance Reminder
Attend today and achieve tomorrow

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/Colleges-year-0-13/managing-students/student-attendance-guide-Colleges-and-kura>

It was great to meet a number of you at last term's Parent, Student And Teacher Conferences. Please feel welcome to contact me at any time should you have any queries or concerns.

Ngā mihi nui

Whāea Jane Keir

Empowering learners to succeed

Deputy Principal



Achievement Stoffel Wilken

Welcome back to Term 2! It has been a high-energy start to the term, with a clear focus on sharpening academic skills and providing our students with practical pathways to success. Here is a look at what is happening across the College.

Prioritising the Essentials: The Transition Pathway

For our Year 12 and 13 students who are still working toward their NCEA Literacy and Numeracy corequisites, we have launched a dedicated Transition Pathway. We recognise how vital these credits are for future opportunities, so we are putting in the extra support to get them across the line.

- Focused Tutoring: Students work in small groups.
- The Goal: By completing specific Standards tagged with Literacy and Numeracy, successful students will gain 10 credits in each area.
- The Structure: To ensure these corequisites get the attention they deserve, students are withdrawn from their regular timetable for two hours a day, allowing them to focus intensely on these fundamental skills without distraction.

Gearing Up for CAAs: Junior and Year 11 Progress

With the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) fast approaching in May, our Junior and Year 11 programmes have been expertly adapted to maximise student readiness. We are particularly excited about the introduction of New Digital Practice Exams. These allow our teachers to provide immediate, outcome-specific feedback. Instead of general study, students can now take a targeted approach, focusing exactly on the areas where they need the most improvement before the official assessments begin.

Vocational Pathways: Gateway & SEEDS

Our senior students are already making waves in the community through our Gateway programmes. It is not just about theory; it is about real-world application:

- Retail Excellence: Students are currently undertaking the SEEDS retail course in collaboration with Woolworths Otorohanga, gaining invaluable insight into the service industry.
- Barista Training: In partnership with The Get Group, our aspiring baristas are perfecting their craft. You can see (and taste!) the results of their hard work as they apply their new skills right here at our very own B-Hive Caf .

While these specialised pathways are in full swing, our teachers across all Faculties continue to deliver well-planned, exciting and rigorous programmes. Whether in the lab, the workshop or the classroom, Term 2 is shaping up to be one of significant achievement.



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ARTS FACULTY

Visual Arts

Create with the heart,
build with the mind.

The start of Term 2 has been a busy one with senior students actively working on their practical Achievement Standards. Year 11 students are producing a canvas painting based upon a myth, story or legend from the culture of their choice. Currently they are developing ideas by creating small pencil compositions. With the Production coming up this term, backdrops need to be painted. In the photo, Stella is taping up one of the words for painting. We will not show you the whole design yet of course!



Performing Arts

Creativity is
intelligence having fun.

The senior Performing Arts class are beginning to work towards their devising Achievement Standard which will be due later in the term. Students have been learning about how they can develop and refine their own original ideas combining the use of drama techniques, elements, conventions and technologies. Their tasks this week have involved quick development of ideas and improvising in short performances.



Music

Behind every favourite song,
there is an untold story.

With the change of Modules for the new term, the new junior Music classes have started by learning basic ukelele and guitar chords before learning how to read basic pitch and rhythm.

The Year 11 Music students are beginning their written assessment which requires them to analyse music from two different contexts. This week they have started learning about protest music and ways that songwriters can convey an important message through the use of musical elements. Year 12 and 13 students are working on individualised programmes which include theory work, performance, songwriting and NZ music research.



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Arts Faculty

Production



Back to the 80's Production rehearsals have restarted after the holidays. This week our extras cast members joined our leads at rehearsals on Monday and Tuesday night. Over 40 students took the stage starting to put together drama scenes as well as learning their first full cast dance.

With only just over 6 weeks until the first performance, it will be a busy few weeks ahead for the cast and crew.



Itinerant Lessons

What you practice in music, you perfect in life.

Our music lessons are up and running again this term. With four instrumental teachers running lessons in vocals, guitar, bass, drums, piano, saxophone, flute and clarinet. This allows students to get back into their preparation for their upcoming performance assessments.



Key Dates

Monday 27 th April	ANZAC Day Observed
Tuesday 28 th April	Teacher Only Day
Friday 15 th May	Pink Shirt Day
Tuesday 19 th May	Ōtorohanga College Board Meeting
Thursday 21 st May	Photolife
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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