

ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Two, Week Seven
Tuesday 2nd June – Friday 6th June 2026

SCIENCE FACULTY

What is Bubbling in the Ōtorohanga College Science Faculty This Term?

Term 2 has been an incredibly busy, hands-on and productive period for the Ōtorohanga College Science Faculty. From the laboratories to the paddocks, our students have been actively exploring the natural world, developing critical thinking skills and connecting their classroom learning to real-world industries.

Pūhoro

Our Pūhoro Wānanga partnership continues to inspire our rangatahi, showing them how traditional knowledge aligns beautifully with modern STEM fields like medicine, agricultural science and environmental management.

As we head toward the mid-year mark, the Science Faculty continues to equip students with the analytical, reasoned mindset they need to navigate and shape the dynamic world ahead of them.

For the senior students, Term 2 represents a crucial window for internal assessments and practical investigations. The Faculty's focus remains heavily balanced between core theory and real-world application.



In Week 5 Ōtorohanga College received our Paper4trees from Smart Plants.

Paper4trees is a waste minimisation and tree planting programme for New Zealand schools. In 2025/26 we recycled paper and cardboard to receive cabbage trees and native grasses. The Level 1 Agriculture class planned then planted the trees and shrubs in a College garden.



Paper4trees



Empowering learners to succeed

Events

Junior Scientists

Exciting Discoveries in Junior Science

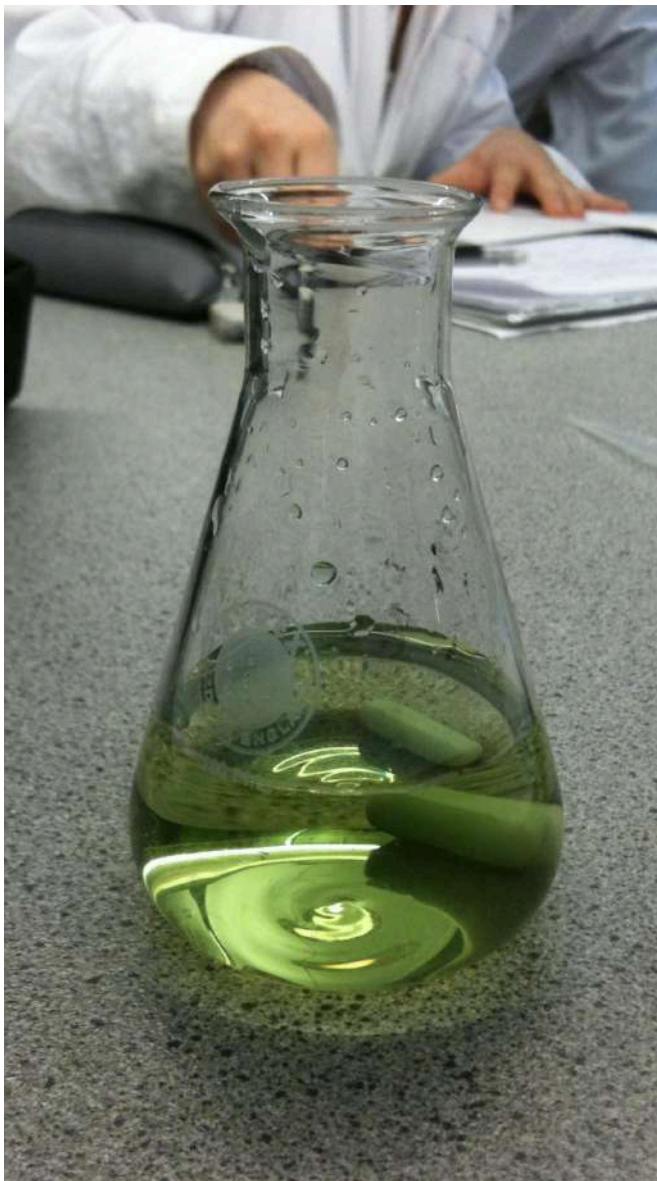
It has been a busy and fascinating term in the Science Faculty as our Junior students dive deep into how the universe works.

Our Year 9 classes have recently wrapped up their investigations into the 'Nature of Matter', exploring states of matter, phase changes and the invisible particles that make up our world. They are now transitioning into an exciting new topic on 'Space Systems'. This is perfectly timed with the upcoming arrival of Matariki, allowing our students to blend astronomical science with cultural significance as they look to the night skies.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students have been tackling some advanced concepts. They recently completed a unit on 'Genetics', learning about DNA, whakapapa, inheritance and the traits that make us unique. Currently, they are putting on their lab coats to work through 'Acids and Bases' alongside the 'Nature of the Atom', discovering the building blocks of chemistry and how different substances react.



We are incredibly proud of the curiosity, practical skills and critical thinking our junior scientists are demonstrating daily. Keep an eye out at home for discussions about inheritance, acid and base reactions and the stars!



Empowering learners to succeed

Events

SQUASH

Waikato Secondary Schools Squash Individual Competition

It has been a busy and incredibly successful week for our squash players, who represented Ōtorohanga College with pride, dedication and outstanding sportsmanship across multiple events!

Thursday, 28th May – Waikato Secondary Schools Individual Competition

Our players took to the courts for the regional individual championships, bringing home fantastic results:

- The girls' team all played exceptionally well against tough competition. Together, they secured an impressive eight match wins total. Many games were absolute nail-biters, but the girls showed immense determination, grit and supported each other beautifully throughout the day.
- The boys' team had a wonderful tournament, racking up six game wins collectively.
 - Frank Lucero was unstoppable, winning all four of his matches to take out 1st place in his division.
 - Bruce Bisphan also put on a brilliant performance to capture the Plate certificate.

Both teams demonstrated excellent honesty, court etiquette and top-tier College spirit.

Wednesday, 3rd June – Ruapehu College Sports Exchange

Following their individual success, the team headed down to Ruapehu for an away exchange.

Our students had a fantastic time testing their skills and, more importantly, building meaningful connections both on and off the court. We value these matchups immensely and hope to see this relationship with Ruapehu College continue to grow. We look forward to hopefully hosting them here in Ōtorohanga in the near future!

Congratulations to all our players on a phenomenal week of squash!



PASIFIKA

Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa – Samoan Language Week 31st May- 6th June

Talofa! This year, the theme for Samoan Language Week is “E afua mai i mauga tetele manuia o le nu'u” (From the high mountains come the blessings of the village). This proverb captures the essence of how the wisdom, leadership and foundational values imparted by our elders and ancestors enrich an entire community. The Samoan Language week is about the importance of preserving the language across generations, with a particular emphasis on faith, family and leadership.

While our Pasifika Poly Group comprises individuals from various nations, we unite in our cultural pride. To commemorate this significant celebration, the Pasifika Poly Group organised a shared meal to honour the Samoan students within our community.

Together, we learn and stand united.

Ia manuia le Vaiaso o le Gagana Sāmoa! (Wishing you a blessed Samoan Language Week!)



Key Dates

Wednesday 10th June
Thursday 11th June
Friday 12th June
Monday 15th June
Thursday 18th June
Tuesday 23rd June
Friday 26th June
Tuesday 30th June
Wednesday 1st July
Friday 3rd July

Production Evening Performance
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University of Waikato Visit
Tough Guy / Gal Challenge
Ōtorohanga College Board Meeting
College Ball
Inglewood High School Exchange
Genazzano FCJ College Netball Games
Matariki Celebration Day
Term Two Ends

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