



ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Three, Week Ten – Monday 15th September – Friday 19th September 2025

From the Principal's Desk

Principal

Lyndsay Kurth



Kia ora koutou

As Term Three comes to an end I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, challenging and rewarding part of the College year. Term Three is often described as the heart of the College year – and this year has certainly lived up to that description.

Over the past ten weeks, our students have worked hard to consolidate their learning, complete key assessments and take part in a wide range of activities. For our senior students, this term has been particularly significant as they prepared for and sat their Derived Grade Examinations, giving them a strong sense of where they are heading as they work towards their final results. For our junior students, this term has been an important time to deepen their knowledge, develop new skills and continue building habits that will serve them well in the future.

Alongside academic work, it has been a term filled with sports tournaments and leadership opportunities. It has been wonderful to see so many of our students getting involved, supporting each other and making the most of what College life has to offer.

As we now look ahead to Term Four, I especially want to acknowledge our senior students as they enter their final weeks before external examinations. This is a critical time to revise thoroughly, seek feedback from teachers and look after their wellbeing. We encourage them to approach their preparation with focus and balance – combining hard work with good rest, healthy routines and time for reflection. The College is here to support them and we wish them every success as they strive to achieve their personal best.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing support of both the College and your child's learning journey. Education is most powerful when home and the College work in partnership and your encouragement and involvement have played a huge role in helping our students thrive this term.

As we head into the term break, I hope you and your whānau find time to rest, recharge and reconnect. Term Four will bring with it the final push for the year – including external examinations for seniors, celebrations of achievement and opportunities to finish the year on a high note.

As John C. Maxwell reminds us, "Teamwork makes the dream work." Thank you for being an integral part of the team that helps every learner, every day.

In closing, Term Three has been a term of focus and growth. Together we can look back and say:

We worked hard.
We achieved.
We made a difference.

Ngā mihi nui

Lyndsay Kurth
Principal

Empowering learners to succeed

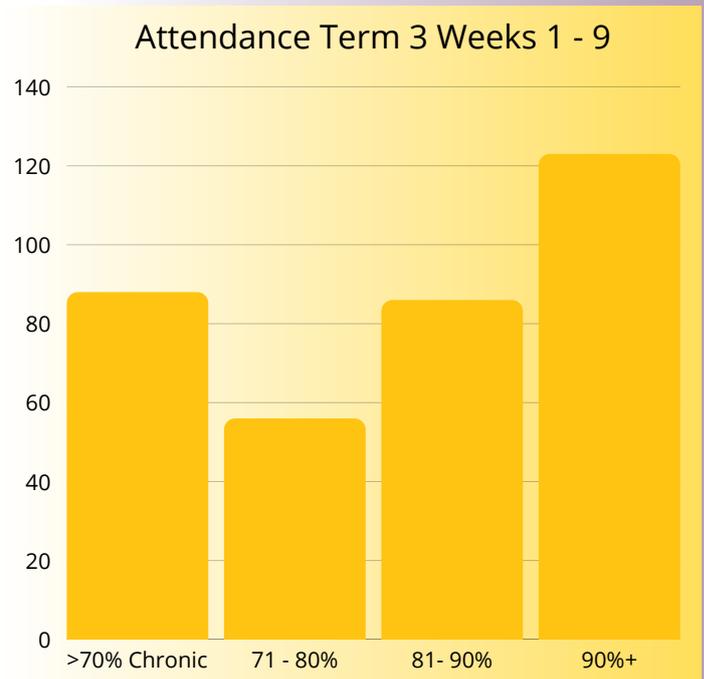
Attendance Matters

Kia ora parents and whānau

We are sharing an update on our student attendance from 14 July to 5 September. Our College target is for 90% of students to attend regularly (less than 5 days absent each term). Currently, 35% of students are meeting this goal.

Here's how each year group is performing:

- Year 9: 47% at target
- Year 10: 32% at target
- Year 11: 34% at target
- Year 12: 33% at target
- Year 13: 15% at target



Our Plan and How You Can Help

For Term 4, we aim to significantly improve attendance, especially for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Our goal is to increase attendance by at least 15% for these groups:

- Year 13: From 15% to 30%
- Year 12: From 33% to 48%
- Year 11: From 34% to 49%
- Year 10: From 32% to 47%

Your partnership is crucial. Here is how we will work together:

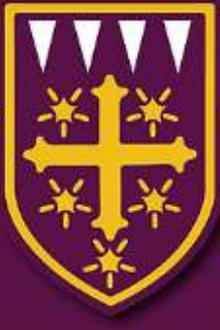
What We're Doing:

- We will monitor attendance closely and communicate with you if we notice a pattern of absence or lateness.
- We will actively engage with students to overcome barriers to regular attendance.
- We will celebrate improvements as a College community and acknowledge progress as well as meeting the target.

How You Can Help:

- Encourage and prioritise regular College attendance with your child.
- Communicate with us if your child is unwell or needs to be absent.
- Partner with us to find solutions if we contact you about their attendance.

Thank you for your support. Together, we can make a difference in our students' success.



Otorohanga College

Honour Before Honours ~ Ko te mana mō mua i te whakamana

Attendance Matters

365

days in the year:

180 school days to try your best, meet your goals and get support for your pathway.

185 personal, family and whānau days.

YOU'RE ON!

Green Zone - Good

<5

Less than 5 days absence per term

WE CAN SEE YOUR PRESENCE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Shout Outs and House Points.
Letters home to parents and caregivers.

WARNING

Yellow Zone-Worrying

5-10

Up to 10 days absence per term

WE ARE A TEAM AND YOU ARE A CRUCIAL PART.

Meet with the Attendance Officer.
We can make a plan to help.



10-15

Up to 15 days absence per term

We need you here. Make every day count.

Orange Zone- Concerning

Whānau hui with Dean.
Let's look at our options.

SERIOUS



15+

Percentage 69%>
15+ days absence

WE CAN HELP YOU get back on track!

Red Zone-Serious Concern

Meet with the Attendance Team and whānau.
Let's get you reengaged in learning.

ACHIEVEMENT



Common Assessment Activities

In week nine, our students completed their Common Assessment Activities. On each of the four assessment days, nearly 100 students had the chance to take their Reading, Writing or Numeracy CAA exams.

Our students' impressive proficiency with the digital platform was a highlight, with over 90% successfully logging into NZQA's Assessment Master system. A small number of students completed the exams on paper due to special assessment conditions.

We are also proud to report that there were no internet issues throughout the four days of exams. This smooth process can likely be attributed to the system upgrade we completed earlier this term, ensuring a seamless experience for all participants.

Current Credit and Corequisite Status

As we wrap up an eventful Term Three, we share an update on our senior students' academic progress, particularly regarding their NCEA credits and corequisites.

The Year 11 students have made solid progress, gaining an average of just over half the credits needed for their NCEA Level 1 certificate.

The Year 12 cohort has delivered a truly stellar performance this term, collectively earning an average of 101% of the credits required for an NCEA Level 2 certificate. This achievement is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

For the Year 13 students, the credit count is currently at an average of 57% toward their NCEA Level 3 certificate. They are on track to finish the year strong as they head into their final exam preparations.

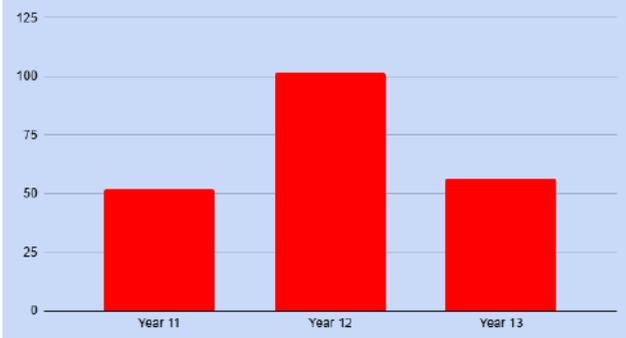
In addition to credit totals, we are also tracking progress on the essential Literacy and Numeracy corequisites:

- Year 11: Almost half of our students have now achieved their Literacy corequisite and just over half have their Numeracy. We are confident that results from the recent CAA exams will significantly boost these figures.
- Year 12: An impressive 78% of students have their Literacy and 81% have their Numeracy.
- Year 13: A remarkable 87% of students have secured both their Literacy and Numeracy corequisites.

Next Steps:

When we return for Term 4, we will continue to support our senior students in their final push for NCEA. After a final credit check, some Year 11 students will be expected to attend targeted catch-up sessions at the College during the senior exam leave period. Teachers will work with these students on an individualised plan to help them earn the credits they need to achieve their NCEA Level 1 certificate.

Average Percentage Of Credits Earned



Percentage Of Students With Literacy And Numeracy



Course Selection Interviews

A quick reminder that our Course Selection Interviews for Years 10, 11 and 12 students are scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

It is very important that both students and their caregivers attend these Interviews. To help you prepare, please take the following steps beforehand:

- Carefully read the Course Information Booklet.
- Complete the Vocational Pathways Interview Preparation for Students survey.
- Complete the Vocational Pathways Interview Preparation for Parents survey.

ENGLISH FACULTY

Term 3 has rushed by for the English Faculty. This term our Juniors have enjoyed an engaging term of learning and activities. Year 9 students successfully explored the timeless themes and language of Romeo and Juliet, showing great enthusiasm and understanding throughout the unit. Through the creation of newspaper articles, visual images and drama productions these students were able to express their learning and show a rich understanding of some classics. Meanwhile, Year 10 students dived into the complexities of Macbeth and deepened their appreciation of literature by studying the powerful poetry of World War One. Through the study of the War Poets, our students were able to appreciate the horrors of World War One and life on the battlefields of France enabling some critical thinking and thoughtful responses to what can be demanding texts.

Additionally, all students who were still yet to achieve either one or both CAA Literacy exams participated in the recent testing. These exams are vital for continued success through Year 11 and beyond. The results for these exams will be available early next term.

Our Derived Grade senior NCEA exams took place recently. These exams are important as they provide our students with a grade should they be unwell and unable to sit the externals in Term 4, however, they also provide our students with much needed formative feedback ensuring a strong lead into revision time so that they can be successful in the important end of year exams.

Looking forward to Term 4 our Juniors will be engaging in novel studies with a New Zealand focus written by New Zealand authors. The topics include The 1981 Springbok Rugby Tour and The Dawn Raids of the 1970s. Our seniors will continue with a focused programme of revision looking towards our externals.

From the English team we wish all staff and students a restful term break. We are looking forward to our learning in Term 4.



Empowering learners to succeed

TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

Māori Faculty

This week, Faculties across our College have been buzzing with the spirit of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Students have eagerly participated in Māori language quizzes which has challenged different classes and year groups to test their knowledge of the language. Beyond the friendly competition, this week has also been a time for thoughtful reflection. As we celebrate 50 years, each year group has taken time to consider the incredible growth of Te Reo Māori in our nation. The students did a great job of coming up with aspirations for the continued growth of Te Reo Māori. They explored their hopes for the future, expressing their personal wishes for the language as a country, a kura and within their own community of Ōtorohanga.

To commemorate this significant occasion, our senior students took the opportunity to contribute to a special event running this week. The Pūtahi Mahara, a time capsule event run by Te Taura Whiri, invited them to create videos for the capsule. These videos will be opened in 2075 to celebrate the 100th anniversary, sharing their kōrero (stories) of their hopes and wishes for Te Reo Māori in the future.

become a fully protected language, used equally with English	to offer Te Reo Māori subtitles available.	names in Aotearoa to be changed to their original Te Reo Māori names.
I wish for every major city to have a dedicated cultural hub where the language spoken and Te Reo Māori can be taught for free.	I wish for every New Zealander to be able to have a basic conversation in Te Reo Māori.	I wish for all major sports events to offer referees, commentators, and players who can speak Te Reo Māori.

My wish for Aotearoa is: We wish that in 50 years time the Māori language & culture will still be alive and celebrated.

they can use it with customers.	Reo Māori as their first language.	displayed, with no English translation.
I wish for all local sports clubs to use Te Reo Māori to encourage during games, and for all team names and chants to be in Te Reo.	I wish for a new public art project that creates a living, evolving sculpture that tells the story of Ōtorohanga learning journey in Te Reo Māori.	I wish for the local library to have fluent speakers in Te Reo so we can hear it and use it.

My wish for Ōtorohanga is:
Māori art to be shown all around our town and for children to be proud getting raised Māori and speaking Te Reo Māori as

Māori.	I wish that our houses to have Māori names	I wish for our whole school to take part in powhiri.	I wish for our school have sports events in Te Reo Māori, during the year.
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My wish for my school is:
To become better in Māori through years and make it compulsory throughout the years (9-13) because it is awesome

language, used equally with English	available.	changed to their original Te Reo Māori names.
I wish for every major city to have a dedicated cultural hub where the language spoken and Te Reo Māori can be taught for free.	I wish for every New Zealander to be able to have a basic conversation in Te Reo Māori.	I wish for all major sports events to offer referees, commentators, and players who can speak Te Reo Māori.

My wish for Aotearoa is: Te Reo to be the official and normalised language of the country. And that we no longer have to protest / fight for the

become a fully protected language, used equally with English	to offer Te Reo Māori subtitles available.	names in Aotearoa to be changed to their original Te Reo Māori names.
I wish for every major city to have a dedicated cultural hub where the language spoken and Te Reo Māori can be taught for free.	I wish for every New Zealander to be able to have a basic conversation in Te Reo Māori.	I wish for all major sports events to offer referees, commentators, and players who can speak Te Reo Māori.

My wish for Aotearoa is: for all Māori people to not feel ashamed about being Māori, and to speak

I wish for our school grounds to be covered in signs and art that are exclusively in Te Reo Māori.	I wish for all teachers and staff to be able to hold basic conversation in Te Reo Māori.	I wish for our school's prize-givings to have more Te Reo Māori used.
I wish that our houses to have Māori names.	I wish for our whole school to take part in powhiri.	I wish for our school have sports events in Te Reo Māori, during the year.

My wish for my school is:
that Māori stays mandatory all throughout school and is incorporated into all subjects like math, science and social studies.

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OUR STUDENTS

Beattie Home Visit

This week, music students returned to Beattie Home to delight residents with their vocal and piano performances. Mason, Aviva, George, Samiah, Cameron and Moana showcased a diverse selection of pieces, evoking smiles and encouraging residents to tap along. Notably, George's waiata in celebration of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori was especially well-received by many.



George



Cameron



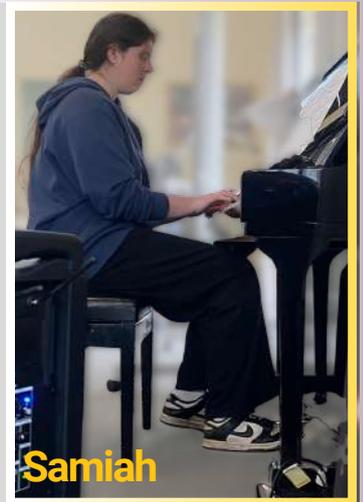
Mason



Moana



Aviva



Samiah

Business Students

The Senior Business students have been hard at work, creating their respective products and services. As a team, the three groups have created inspirational products and services that are thoughtful and unique.

Island Breeze - this team has created unique car air fresheners, fused with the scents of the Pacific such as coconut. Each freshener has been handcrafted with care.

The Babysitters - these responsible business owners have a babysitting service that will not only offer quality care that you can rely on, they also offer to help out with chores at your request.

Fidget Forge - this team has created a box of goodies that support neurodivergent people. This product appeals to the five senses and will be great as gifts.

Island Breeze
Want a new-smelling car? We've got you covered! Support your local Year 13 business. We offer island-inspired car air fresheners that will give you a sense of peace. You can find the link to order your unique car air fresheners on our Instagram or flick a message to our business email.

Our details
Instagram: 1sland.Breeze
Email: IslandBreezeYes@gmail.com

Fidget Forge- Forge Your Own Fun

At Fidget Forge we offer a unique collection of high-quality fidget boxes designed for those who need a little extra tactile stimulation or stress relief throughout their day. Whether you're at work, school or home, these fidget boxes help channel focus and calm, transforming idle hands into productive ones.

YOU CAN PURCHASE ONE OF OUR PRODUCTS FROM OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE FOR ONLY \$150!!
@FIDGET-FORGE

MEET A BABYSITTER

If you need a night and child free or some extra help caring for your children, please contact us or a local parent, this is where we come to help you out!

We are a group of Year 13 students, attending Glen Innes College. We have the skills and sharing our skills with others. Our business is a babysitting service that is focused around the Glen Innes District.

Times/days
Monday - 4:00pm - 10:00pm
Tuesday - 4:00pm - 10:00pm
Wednesday - 4:00pm - 10:00pm
Thursday - 4:00pm - 10:00pm
Friday - 10:00am - 10:00pm
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:00pm
Weekends may change due to other events.

Contact: Email us for more information or to book a visit with us!
Thebabysitters@gmail.com

We are the Babysitters! Through the YES (Young Enterprise Group), we have been given the chance to start a babysitting service for busy parents who need or want a kids-free night out. See our poster for information about how to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

ACTIVE AS

Beach Volleyball

As part of our Active As funding, one of the passion projects identified by students was the development of a beach volleyball court. Over the weekend, we began bringing this vision to life - digging out the pit, laying drainage metal, adding weed matting and now completing the final touches on the boxing before the sand is delivered.

Stage one of the build is now complete and our students are buzzing with anticipation for the finished court. This exciting new asset will not only support volleyball, but also provide a fantastic space that can be enjoyed by our students and community for many years to come.



KEY DATES AND FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Course Selection Interviews for Years 10 - 12 - Thursday 9th October
- Music and Drama Performance Evening - Tuesday 14th October
- Kapa Haka and Pasifika Performance Evening - Wednesday 22nd October
- Year 13 Spirit Week - Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October
- Senior Prizegiving at 6pm - Thursday 30th October

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