



ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE UPDATES AND WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Two, Week One – Monday 28th April – Friday 2nd May 2025



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

**PRINCIPAL
LYNDSAY KURTH**

Dear parents, caregivers and whānau

As the autumn leaves continue their colourful descent we extend a warm welcome back to the College for Term Two. We hope you all enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating break with your tamariki.

After a wonderful first term filled with new beginnings and impressive achievements we are looking forward to building on that momentum in the weeks ahead.

This term promises to be full of opportunities for learning, growth and community connection.

We have some important dates for you to keep in mind:

- Wednesday 7th May, Teacher Only Day
- Friday 9th May, College Cross Country and Colour Run
- Friday 16th May, Pink Shirt Day
- Monday 19th May, Photolife at College
- Tuesday 20th May to Thursday 22nd May, CAA Examinations
- Friday 23rd May, Kyoai Gakuen High School from Japan visit the College
- Friday 6th June, Ō Factor
- Tuesday 10th June, Inglewood High School Exchange
- Thursday 19th June, Matariki Celebrations and the Term Two Report emailed home
- Wednesday 25th June, Parent, Student and Teacher Conferences
- Friday 27th June, Term Two ends

We also look forward to continuing our strong partnership with you - we believe that working together is the key to ensuring your child's success and wellbeing - "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." This beautifully encapsulates the strength we gain from our shared purpose. We each hold a vital piece of the puzzle in a child's educational journey. Your insights into your child's unique personalities, strengths and challenges at home are invaluable. Paired with our expertise in the classroom and our understanding of educational best practices, we create a powerful synergy that truly benefits your child.

We encourage you to stay connected with us through upcoming events, communication channels and regular updates.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers or the College Office if you have any questions or concerns or if there is anything we can do to support your family.

We look forward to a productive and positive Term Two.

Warm regards.

Lyndsay Kurth
Principal



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

HAUORA

Kia ora koutou

This update focuses on the crucial link between our online lives and mental health, highlighting the need for us to collaborate to create a positive and supportive environment for everyone.

For Our Students: The online world is a big part of learning, connecting and having fun, but it is also important to be smart and care for ourselves online and offline.

- **Your Digital Footprint:** What you share online can stick around and be seen by others. Always think before you post anything.
- **Protect Your Privacy:** Keep your personal information safe. Be careful about sharing passwords and what you make public online.
- **Be Respectful Online:** Treat others how you want to be treated in all your digital interactions. Cyberbullying is never acceptable.
- **Balance Your Time:** Make sure you're not just online! Get involved in other things you enjoy – sports, clubs, hobbies, spending time with friends and whānau.
- **Speak Up If You Need Help:** If anything online makes you feel uncomfortable, worried, or unsafe, talk to someone you trust or use the KOMODO survey tool during Empower Whakamana.

For Our Parents: Your guidance is key to helping students navigate the complexities of the digital world and supporting their wellbeing.

- **Maintain Open Communication:** Talk openly with your teenager about their online activities, apps and platforms and any challenges they might face. Create an environment where they feel comfortable sharing.
- **Collaborate on Healthy Boundaries:** Work together to establish reasonable and age-appropriate limits on screen time. Encourage a balance with schoolwork, family time, extracurricular activities and sufficient sleep.
- **Stay Informed Together:** Try to understand the online world your teen is navigating. Discuss online safety, privacy settings, responsible digital citizenship and the potential impacts of social media.
- **Be Aware of Changes:** Pay attention to any significant changes in your teen's mood, behaviour, sleep patterns, social interactions, or academic performance, as these could indicate online distress or mental health concerns.
- **Know Your Support Systems:** Familiarise yourself with the College support services, including counsellors, Empower Whakamana Teachers and Deans. Do not hesitate to seek support if needed.

Caring for our mental health is essential for our overall wellbeing. We are here to support all our students and their families, so feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need help.

Ngā mihi nui,
Whaea Vanessa Te Huia

Term 2 House Competitions



Colour Run
May 9th



Pink Shirt Day
May 16th



Ō Factor
June 6th



Matariki
June 19th



End of Term Assembly
June 27th

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Kia ora koutou...

Common Assessment Activities

Please note that the first round of Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) will be held in Week Four: Writing on Tuesday, May 20th; Reading on Wednesday, May 21st and Numeracy on Thursday, May 22nd. All Year 10 students without the required Literacy and/or Numeracy, as well as senior students needing their NCEA co-requisites, will participate. Parents of students required to sit these assessments will have received a separate letter. These co-requisites are essential for NCEA certificate qualification, so student attendance is crucial.



Exciting Gateway Opportunities From The Pathways Team

We are pleased to announce that 36 senior students will begin their journey in two Gateway programmes next week. These programmes are designed to provide students with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on work experience and generally result in the acquisition of 20 NCEA credits. The two programmes commencing are the SEEDS Woolworths Retail Experience and a Barista Course. These initiatives are a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain practical skills and valuable industry insights.



Enhancing Learning Through EOTC Experiences

Recognising the immense value of hands-on learning, our College actively seeks opportunities to educate students outside the traditional classroom setting. We have a number of exciting Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) events planned for the coming weeks and months, designed to broaden horizons and provide real-world context to their studies. These include:

- STAR Business Taster Course
- Pūhoro Wānanga 2
- Field Days
- Chemistry Analytical Competition
- STAR Beauty Taster Course
- Dairy Farm Visit
- YES Business Pitch
- University of Waikato Open Day
- Active As Ambassador Cluster Day
- Origin Coffee Business Trip

Stay tuned for further information on how your child will be involved.

Welcome To Our New College Van!

We are excited to announce the arrival of our new College van! The Board made this important investment to ensure the continued safety and comfort of our students during transport. Our trusty older van has been replaced with a modern, safe and reliable Toyota Hi-Ace. We anticipate many kilometres of safe and comfortable journeys ahead for our students and staff.



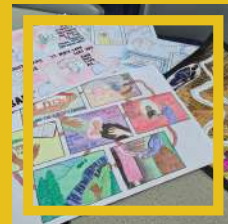
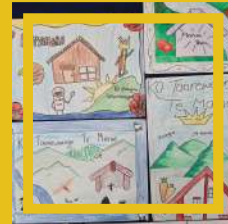
ENGLISH FACULTY

The English Faculty have returned from our holidays refreshed and ready to jump into a busy schedule of learning. Our Juniors have been presented with the opportunity to be published authors with The King Country News giving two students this term the chance to have an article featured in two publications. All our junior classes are now busily writing articles in the hope that their work will be the chosen one. Alongside this, our Year 10 cohort are working towards the CAA Literacy examinations which begin on May 20th. These exams are important as they are our juniors' first opportunity to gain their NCEA Literacy credits.

Our Seniors are continuing to work towards their NCEA qualifications. Level 2 classes are completing their NCEA writing portfolios and embarking on their UE reading qualifications with the commencement of a research assessment. End of year exams are also featuring in their world at present with essay's being written, novels studied and responses perfected.

Our Level 1 cohort have been working hard on their first NCEA assessments worth 5 credits. These assessments have been our Level 1s introduction to the structure of NCEA and they have been taking this qualification seriously. The class that has completed this so far has gained some very pleasing results. Most classes will be finished by week 3 of this term.

Our classes have begun well with all students on board and motivated to achieve. We are all pleased with the effort they are putting in as connected and motivated learners.



HORROR HAIKU POETRY

9 ROTO are dabbling into our HORROR unit this term.

These Year 9 ghouls are looking forward to their Spooky Film Study and they are not afraid to tackle some creative writing in the horror genre. Here are some of their first efforts: Horror Haiku poetry.



Night has arrived

Gothic castle, scary vibes
The ghouls scream with fear

The clouds grew dark grey
Blood, rushing down my poor leg
"SQUAWK!" shout the black crows

Lightning struck darkness
Brain fogging up with demons
House haunted with ghosts

The wind is howling
Blood curdling screams echoing
Death is everywhere

Swaying dead oak trees
Blood moonlight gleams overhead
Darkness spread around

The clouds grew dark grey
As the clock hit 1 a.m.
Leaving people scared

It was a dark night
Something was in the shadows
A scary monster!!!

Empowering learners to succeed

ANZAC COMMEMORATION

Up and down the country, at memorials big and small, New Zealanders gathered to remember their loved ones who served their country in times of war. The Head Students, Holly Church and George Kopa, remembered fallen soldiers with others in the community by laying a wreath at the cenotaph as well as writing the piece below for the ANZAC Day Ōtorohanga Civic Service Programme.

"Across New Zealand and Australia April 25th is a time where the young and old come together to remember those who stood at Gallipoli - many of whom were not much older than us. On this day in 1915, soldiers left our shores with a sense of duty and hope.

ANZAC Day is about remembering the sacrifices our men endured, honouring those who served, some who were not granted the choice of coming home and those who are still affected from war. ANZAC Day is a reminder to all, that our freedom was paid for dearly. Keeping that memory alive is our responsibility, and this is not just once a year, but the way we treat each other and that we carry the values that ANZAC represents - courage, respect and looking out for each other.

The day is marked by dawn services, marches and events that enable people to commemorate. Above all "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We shall remember them".



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