



ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Two, Week Three - Monday 13th - Friday 17th May 2024

YEAR 9 CAREER SPEED DATING

For two hours on Monday 13th May, the College Hall was transformed into a buzzing hub of career exploration. Nineteen local employers were represented in our first annual career speed dating event, introducing their professions to our inquisitive Year 9 taura. Throughout the session, our guests were hit with a barrage of excited pātai: How can I qualify as a truck driver? What does a normal day for a police officer look like? Can I actually turn my passion for art into a career?

It is never too early to start considering future pathways, and sparking such curiosity already in Year 9 will enable students to make informed decisions when the time comes to choose NCEA courses. We are very fortunate to have such an engaged community helping us in this endeavour, with special thanks going to Councillor Katrina Christison for organising the event.



CROSS COUNTRY

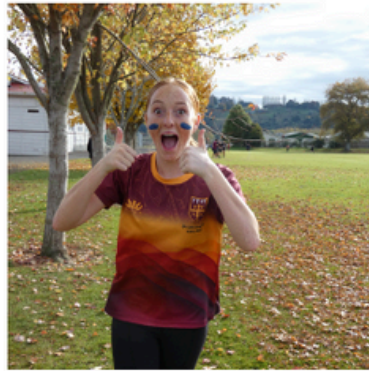


On Tuesday during Learning Block 5, Ōtorohanga College completed its annual and much-anticipated Cross Country Interhouse event. Held in near-perfect conditions, championship runners took on the challenge of the farm course, while fun runners negotiated the College fields. In the Intermediate Boys section, it was Luke Lamborn who pipped the strong Rhys Maniapoto-Bernsten in a tremendous finish to the 4.5km race. Dominic Eveleigh took 3rd place. In the Intermediate Girls Race, Mya Needham, on the back of her 5.5km Rotorua road run, was first, with Aviva Mudge second and Holly Church third. The championship in the senior boys also had a spectacular finish, with Luke Coles taking the crown over experienced long-distance runner Samuel Connolly. Coles' grit is a real attribute in these types of events, and these two are both ones to watch in the upcoming Tough Guy/Gal Challenge. Callum Raine secured third place. In the Senior Girls race, Lana Roach showed her hard work in the Athlete Development Programme had paid off as she was first home. Angel Oakley-Smith was second and Marian Vibar was third.

For juniors, the new course and unfamiliar territory were evident, with a number of runners heading off course. This meant we had to rerun the junior race on a much more familiar course on Friday, which led to the following results. In the Junior Boys section, Thomas Corley powered home for first, while Lachlan McGuire was a comfortable second. It was the sprint finish for third that was a true spectacle, with Seth Philip pipping Logan Gardner by a nose. In the girls' race, Bayley Kerr won comfortably followed by Rhiley Strawbridge in second and Morgan Kurth in 3rd.

This made for a super tight inter House competition with Hotson just two points clear of Eveleigh in 1st, Brown in 3rd, and Kedgley 4th.

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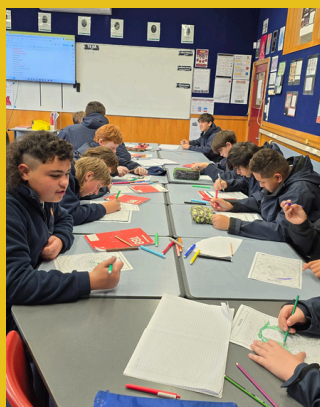
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AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 10 students travelled to Auckland to attend the annual Auckland Writers Festival where they listened to inspiring writers and participated in writers workshops.

The favourite speaker with students was Airana Ngarewa, the author of *The Bone Tree*. Students enjoyed his personal stories about growing up in Patea, Taranaki and his career as a professional boxer. He was a great speaker and very funny. He shared his biggest ambition which is to get everyone learning and writing. Students found him very inspiring for many reasons, but mostly because he had a lot of great advice for young people. A few students went to the 'Creating Characters' workshop and really enjoyed it.

Students were energised and inspired by the Auckland Writers Festival.



MĀORI FACULTY

Te ao Māori Year 9

In our Year 9 junior programme, students have been exploring the history and significance of Matariki/ Puanga. They are learning about the local stories and traditions surrounding this time of year. This week Year 9 students have started learning about history and whakapapa through learning local Haka, which will be showcased during the Matariki celebrations later this term.

Tuakana Te Reo Māori

Senior Te Reo classes have been making significant progress in their language learning journey with a big focus on using Te Reo Māori in everyday conversations. Year 11 students this week have been practicing holding conversations on different subjects which will help to boost confidence in using Te Reo more. By discussing a range of topics, they are able to apply the Reo they have learned and become more proficient in their communication.

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PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE TRIP

Senior Performing Arts students as well as leads in our upcoming Production, travelled to Hamilton last night to attend the Indian Ink Company's Performance of "Dirty Work - An Ode To Joy" at the Clarence Street Theatre. Students were impressed by the colourful and creative set, the use of lighting, the clever use of improvisation combined with the choir and the drama techniques, conventions and elements that were used.

As well as inspiring students for their own performances, the Senior Performing Arts class will now spend their upcoming class time focusing on analysing this performance for one of their NCEA assessments. For many students, this was a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre for the first time and the group looks forward to their next theatre visit.



ATTITUDE HEALTH PRESENTATION

Today students were lucky to be part of presentations given by the Attitude Health Organisation. Attitude Health has a vision that every young person in Aotearoa will know that they are valued. Attitude continues to evolve and adapt to the ever-shifting needs of youth, its legacy of empowerment and support will undoubtedly endure, leaving an indelible mark on generations to come. Students were given targeted presentations based on their year levels on a range of Hauora and wellbeing topics.

The Attitude presentations are a highlight and we thank Allenzo for his time with us today.



PINK SHIRT DAY

Today students participated in Pink Shirt Day to support the antibullying campaign that celebrates diversity and creates environments where all people can feel safe, valued and respected. Each year, workplaces, schools, organisations and individuals join the movement to make a stand against bullying which is a serious issue in New Zealand.

Students participated in a range of activities with prizes being awarded in assembly this morning.

Best Dressed was quite difficult this year and it was great to see students stepping out of their comfort zones. House Leaders chose Best Dressed - Cullen Fagan for Brown House, Runner Up Maz Wanden for Eveleigh House.

Colouring Competition - 140 entries were submitted, they were judged by Counsellor Joyce Sneddon. 1st Kylie Woodward - Hotson, 2nd Angelina Chimp - Hotson, 3rd Lylah Andrews - Eveleigh.

The Event Planning Junior Module made and sold cupcakes and cookies that followed the pink theme at interval.



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KEY DATES AND FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Monday 20th May Photolife Class Photos
- Tuesday 21st May King Country Cross Country
- Friday 24th May Kyoai Gakuen High School Visit
- Friday 31st May Accord Teacher Only Day
- Monday 3rd June King's Birthday
- Wednesday 5th June WAIBOP Cross Country
- Tuesday 11st June Inglewood Exchange (Away)
- Friday 21st June Tough Guy Gal Challenge

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