



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,
Kia Ora, Tena Koutou Katoa

*Above 2017 Student Leaders from left:
Nicholas Tinholt (BoT Rep.), Head Students:
Gemma Tims, Hayden Christie, Bethany Hay
and Stefan Browne*

Welcome to our Term 2 *Contact* – our new once a term newsletter.

As I wrote at the end of last term, I made a decision to write a ‘once a term’ only newsletter. This followed a full review of how best to communicate with the wider College community. This past term, the College Blog – accessed through the College website – has been updated each week, highlighting details of student successes and providing information about upcoming events.

Term 2 has been another very busy term at Otumoetai College. The College’s annual Ball was held at Bay Park on 20 May. All who attended accredited themselves very well and enjoyed a fun filled evening. A week later, Year 12 students were invited to their Leadership Camp at Ngamuwahine where those who attended explored how to become quality student leaders in 2018.

Senior students were granted access to explore a wide range of what both local and national tertiary providers offered during the College’s annual Tertiary Providers Day. Many Senior students were able to secure answers to some burning questions.

I have enjoyed my Principal’s Assemblies this term, as from my perspective, it is wonderful to have the Action Centre back in operation (not fully yet unfortunately due to issues with the dance floor!). I have been able to divide the school and in one period explain and highlight to students our many successes as a school.

We began the term by inviting all parents to come with their Senior student to meet with the relevant staff. Over two nights many of you took up this option. Parents / Caregivers of Junior students were emailed home a full report inclusive of teacher comments. Practice NCEA exams took place last week and a grade report will be emailed next week. The report will show all internal standard successes to date and grades earned in the practice exams.

The staff have committed to regular observation of their classroom practice by their peers. This is courageous and will continue to ensure the best possible outcomes for your students. Staff also complete an annual inquiry into an aspect – their choice – of their practice.

Further on staffing matters, I have appointed the incoming Year 9 Deans – Ms S Boubee and Ms N Hawkes – and they will be supported each week by Mr T Mika, who is also a Year 13 Dean. The process of appointing my successor continues to move ahead and the BOT will interview and make a final decision over the last weekend of the holidays 22 and 23 July. An announcement will follow.

On the cultural scene, the Music Department enjoyed an inspiring Music Camp in Rotorua and then competed in the Chamber Music competition and the Big Sing where they gained a variety of awards including Mrs Thomas-Chisholm gaining the “Conductors Professional Development Award”. This week the Drama Department will stage their Senior and Junior plays but at the time of writing, I have not seen them.

On the sporting scene, there are 600 students involved in commitment to a winter sports team. The First XV and other rugby teams are enjoying a good season as well as our many football teams. Both the Girls and Boys Hockey teams have enjoyed some impressive wins. Basketball and Netball all ‘play on’ again enjoying some great wins after some fierce competition. Our Cross Country was a great success and my congratulations to our swimmers and gymnasts on their recent success. A highlight was the “Special Olympic Soccer “ competition which was held at our school.

I leave later today to ‘market’ for International students in Germany and Italy. Our International Department continues to be a strength of the college and expose our students to a range of different cultures and therefore a range of personal experiences. Next term there will be over 80 International students in our college.

Finally – well done Seniors during your recent exams; your grade reports will be emailed home. Seniors, please take time during the upcoming break to take to study.

I wish all parents, caregivers and students a relaxing mid-year holiday and look forward to seeing all students return on Monday 24 July.

DG Randell
Principal

***Note:** You can keep in touch with our weekly news updates through the Blog on our website at: <https://www.otc.school.nz/blog>*