



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 my Term 3 CONTACT – my once a term newsletter.

Term 3, 2017 began with the arrival of a large group of new International students from a wide range of countries. They were all enrolled into classes and then welcomed by a Powhiri in Okohanga which introduced them to the bi-cultural life of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

During the term we have had the pleasure of hosting Japanese students from Hiroshima Nagisa.

Another successful Orientation Evening was held in early August and currently we have nearly 400 students enrolled for Year 9 in 2018.

Throughout much of the Term, Y10-Y12 students were involved in selecting the subjects they wish to study in the Senior School in 2018. This information has now been collated so that staffing can be assessed and the appropriate adjustments made for 2018. This year the subject selection afternoon was hugely successful with over 10 tertiary providers on site offering advice to students. To those of you who had to initially wait outside, I apologise but it is testimony to the interest our families / whanau hold in helping our young people. If your son/daughter has not confirmed their 2018 selection, please do so immediately. 2017 Year 9 students will make their selections early next Term.

A full written school report was emailed for all senior students early in the term and further senior practice examinations were held last week. I remind you that an examination grade report will be emailed home at the end of this week (Friday 29 September) and further, early next Term, you will be emailed an NCEA status update report.

There have been many student successes this term and I will list them here for you:

- Regional PIN'D Fashion Competition
- Regional Mathematics Competition
- Regional Chamber Music

Students have also been involved in a range of additional and special programmes:

- Save a Mate in Year 10 PE
- Project K completed their 'Outdoor' experience and are now undertaking their Community projects
- Giving Blood to build the size of the New Zealand Blood Bank
- Senior Economics trip to Wellington
- Writing for 'Scholarships' success workshops
- Kapa Haka performance in Rarotonga
- Talent Quest

- Senior Art Exhibition
- School trips to Los Angeles (Dance and Drama) and to China (to visit our sister school in Nan Chung) left New Zealand last weekend

As a School a strong focus has been engagement in growing the local area Community Learning 'COL'. Supported and facilitated by the MOE the intent is grow and plan a pathway – based on hard factual achievement data – for all students in the geographic area of Otumoetai. Staff from Year 1 to Y13 are working together to achieve this end result. It is a big change and holds a bright future.

The staff Te Wero committee has been working hard to grow staff wide understanding of Cultural Responsive and Relational Pedagogy and the staff team working on Restorative Practices have continued their strong work to help build a better future.

I remind you to keep a watchful eye on our blog as it will be regularly updated each week and inform of student activities and successes.

The end of another successful term and I wish all parents, caregivers and students a relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing all students return on Monday 16 October.

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>*