Te Kāreti o Ōpōtiki - Ōpōtiki College

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Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Te Kāreti o Ōpōtiki – Ōpōtiki College,

Firstly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who welcomed me through such a powerful and uplifting pōhiri. The mana, the warmth, and the pride in our kura were deeply felt. It was a reminder that Te Kāreti o Ōpōtiki – Ōpōtiki College stands on strong foundations—of people, of place, and of purpose.

As I begin this journey alongside you, I want to be clear about the direction we are taking as a school. My guiding kupu are standards and urgency. Standards, because our rangatahi deserve the very best—in teaching, in relationships, in expectations, and in outcomes. Urgency, because we cannot afford to wait. Every day matters. Every lesson matters. Every learner matters.

To support this, we have already introduced the Te Kāreti o Ōpōtiki – Ōpōtiki College Common Teacher Practice Model. This ensures that, across every classroom, our teachers are clear about what high-quality teaching looks like. It is grounded in evidence-based practices that we know make a real difference for student learning. This is about consistency, clarity, and giving every student the best opportunity to succeed—no matter which class they are in. You will also hear your tamariki talking about a new classroom routine called "Straight into Learning." This is about making sure every minute of learning time is used well.

The standards we are re-establishing over the next two weeks are that students must wear the correct uniform and have water only in class. Correct uniform means:

- Black jersey or jacket (No Hoodies)
- Black shoes (predominantly black)
- Black hats, worn outside only (not to be worn inside)
- Black shorts
- New school polo shirt

In our classes, students are only to bring water to drink—certainly no energy drinks. Alongside these changes, I am pleased to share that we have successfully secured significant funding from the Ministry of Education to support urgent professional development in literacy and numeracy. As a result, our staff will begin Structured Literacy professional development this Wednesday. This is a major step forward for our kura. Structured Literacy is a proven, evidence-based approach that strengthens reading and writing for all learners. Importantly, it will support our students across both English-medium and Maurua pathways, ensuring that all of our young people benefit.

This is just the beginning. Our focus is clear: lifting achievement, strengthening teaching, and ensuring that every student at Te Kāreti o Ōpōtiki – Ōpōtiki College is known, supported, and challenged to succeed. We will move forward together—with high expectations, with purpose, and with urgency.

Nāku iti nei, nā
Matua Glenn
Principal
Te Kāreti o Ōpōtiki – Ōpōtiki College

Te Hinengaro te Tohu — The Mind is the Measure of the Man