08 MAY 2026

ISSUE NO. 5

KĀRETI KARERE

Message from the Principal

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

As part of our focus on high standards and creating the best possible learning environment for our rangatahi, we are introducing clear expectations around cell phone use at kura.

From now on, students in Years 9–11 are not permitted to have cell phones out during the school day. For students in Years 12–13, cell phones may only be used when explicitly permitted by the teacher for learning purposes. At no time should students be accessing social media. Headphones may only be used in class with teacher permission and are not to be worn around the school.

These expectations are about maintaining high standards in our classrooms. Cell phones can be a significant distraction, and we are committed to ensuring students are present, engaged, and focused on their learning.

Staff have undertaken two rounds of Structured Literacy professional development to strengthen teaching practice and ensure a consistent approach across the kura. In addition, all Year 9 and 10 students will be assessed in literacy to build a clear understanding of their decoding ability. This will allow for more targeted teaching and better support for all learners.

By setting these expectations, we are reinforcing that when students are at kura, their priority is learning. This reflects our commitment to urgency — making the most of every minute — and ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

We appreciate the support of our whānau in reinforcing these expectations. Together, we are building a culture of focus, respect, and high achievement.

In the near future, we will be introducing after-school wānanga (workshops) to support students who require additional help with their NCEA assessments, as well as Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy. Further details will be shared once the programme has been finalised.

Please note that we will not be holding Check and Connect at this time, as we did not want to provide short notice for a half-day event. We will communicate an alternative approach shortly. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss your child's report, please contact their teacher directly.

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

Sports

Winter sports has kicked off this term for our tauira! A big mihi to our coaches, managers and staff who have stepped up to make this possible for our tauira. Head to our Facebook page to see how our tauira get on this Season.

ANZAC Assembly

Last Wednesday we commemorated and acknowledged all those that have served and serve our country in the New Zealand Defence Forces, with special tribute given to those that have fallen in the line of duty.

A special thanks to the following for our Anzac Assembly Makau Phipps, Tamati Jensen- Gilmer, Katarina Smith, Army Veteran Gavin Nicol, Opotiki College Cadet Unit, Lorraine Lawson-Barrett and Robyn Abraham-Harris.

Manu Korero

Special acknowledgements to our Head Boy, Tamati, who represented us this week at Manu Kōrero. We are incredibly proud of you. He arero taiaha, he tōtara haemata, koia ko koe te ākengokengo a ō mātua tīpuna, ka tau hā!

IMPORTANT DATES

Kura Ki Uta Kapa Haka Noho
Saturday May 9, 9am - 6pm
Sunday May 10, 9am - 3pm

May 12 - Manatu House Meeting 5.30

May 18 - May 22, Youth Week.

May 20, Maurua House Meeting 5.30pm.
Youth Expo.

May 21- Taitoa House Meeting 5.30pm

1 June - 5 June, Samoan Language Week.

1 June, Kings Birthday (Public Holiday).