AORERE COLLEGE

Character opens the ways to the heavens

AORERE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 3 2026

Holiday Senior Student Tutorials



Aorere College - Term 3 Week 1 Holiday Catch-ups

Please use the top gate on Selfs Rd to enter school.

Schedule for the week				
	Mon 28th Sept	Tues 29th Sept	Wed 30th Sept	Thurs 1st Oct
9:00 - 11:45 am	English	Mathematics	Science	Option line 1
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12.15 - 3.00 pm	Option line 3	Option line 4	Option line 2	Option line 5

We strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the holiday tutorial sessions running throughout the upcoming break. These tutorials provide dedicated academic support, structured revision, and targeted guidance to help students prepare effectively for upcoming external examinations and internal assessments. Detailed schedules and subject-specific timetables have been sent to students and parents via email and are available on our school website.

FROM OUR TUMUAKI

Tēnā koutou katoa, Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei, Kia Orana, Fakalofa lahi atu, Assalamu alaikum, Namaste, Bula vinaka, Chao

It has been a busy term with a lot of exciting student activities and achievements including language weeks, performances and sporting competitions. I was pleased to attend the recent Stand Up Stand Out music competition at the Town Hall in which our students performed with enthusiasm and success. Also of note has been the Dance Showcase at Māngere Arts Centre in which many of our senior students performed and earned credits towards NCEA. Both events revealed the high level of excellence of which our students are capable.

In the last few weeks senior students have been occupied with Literacy and Numeracy testing, derived grades exams and now there is the opportunity for students to attend workshops in week one of the holidays to complete assessments they have not yet completed or to sit a re-assessment.

Once we return to Term 4 students will be under real pressure as they prepare for the external examinations and the last 4 weeks will fly past for Years 12 and 13. Year 11 will, of course, remain at school until the end of November completing their internals and sitting their exams.

I wish you all well for the holidays ahead and look forward to seeing our students back in Term 4.

Ngā mihi nui
Leanne Webb
Tumuaki

KEY DATES FOR TERM 4

Week	Date	Event/Activity
1	Mon 12th Oct	Start of Term 4: All students return to school
3	Mon 26th Oct	Labour Day: Public Holiday – School closed
3	Thurs 29th Oct	Senior Sports Prize Giving
3	Fri 30th Oct	Art Exhibition
4	Mon 2nd Nov	Arts Prize Giving
4	Tues 3rd Nov	Year 13 Leavers Graduation & Walk:
4	Thurs 5th Nov	Senior Prize Giving: Celebrating Senior Academic and Co-Curricular Excellence
4	Fri 6th Nov	Pō Whakanui: Māori Prize Giving
5	Tues 10th Nov	NZQA Examinations Begin: External exams commence for NCEA students
5	Fri 13th Nov	Kedgley Intermediate Year 8 Transition Day
8	Wed 2nd Dec	Teacher Only Day: Curriculum planning
9	Tues 8th Dec	Junior Prize Giving & End of Term: Final day of school for Junior students

Junior Students (Years 9 & 10)

The end-of-year SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment & Reporting Tool) testing will be taking place during Weeks 1, 2 and 3 of Term 4.

Week	Date	SMART Test
1	Thurs 15th Oct	Mathematics
2	Thurs 22nd Oct	Reading
3	Thurs 29th Oct	Writing

PHONES AWAY FOR THE DAY!

A reminder that the policy still remains in place.

From 8.55 am to 3 pm, students are required to have their phones turned off and in their bags. Too many students are still not abiding by the rule. Please do not call your child on their phone during the school day and expect them to answer. If you have an urgent reason that you need to make contact with your child, please contact the school office, and they can get the message to them. Alternatively, they can respond to a text at 3 pm.







Year-to-Date (YTD) Attendance Summary

Regular attendance is directly tied to student success and well-being. Our YTD attendance analysis shows strong engagement across many year levels, but consistent daily attendance remains crucial for finishing the year strongly.

We can be pleased with the overall Attendance picture for Term 3. We have maintained weekly attendance rates in the 80% - 85% range in a term affected by illness for both students and staff.

Overall, we continue to work with whānau to improve attendance rates of our students. We aim for EVERY student to attend regularly (90%+). This will lead to more successful outcomes at school.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance and would like to discuss this then email Mr Talbot.

Rich Talbot
Director of Student Services
rtalbot@aorere.ac.nz
0211022248

Senior Student Support (Years 12 & 13)

For Year 12 and 13 students who have not met regular attendance expectations throughout the year, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members and whānau will be meeting to review progress and construct actionable pathways and support plans for next year.

Term 4 Goal: Our Best Term Yet!

Our collective goal is to make Term 4 our best term of the year! To achieve academic success, students need to be in class, fully engaged, every single day. Every lesson counts toward achieving NCEA qualifications and junior learning targets.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

As the weather warms up in Term 4, we expect all students to maintain exemplary head-to-toe uniform standards every day. Please use the holiday period to check clothing items and sort out any replacement pieces if necessary.

NZ UNIFORMS WEARING IS BELIEVING

A description of our full school uniform is on our school website. Uniform items can be purchased at NZUniforms, Manukau - scan the QR code.

Important Reminders on Non-Uniform Items:

Garment	✓ Acceptable	✘ Not Acceptable
Footwear	• Regulation full black shoes • Plain white or black socks (worn with shoes)	• Non-regulation/ coloured shoes, slides or Crocs • Socks worn with sandals
Outerwear	• Official school jacket or jumper • Kidscan jackets	• Non-school hoodies • Branded jackets • Casual jumpers
Headwear & Accessories	• Aorere College school bucket hat • Cultural headwear	• Caps • Beanies • Earpods

LANGUAGE WEEKS

This term has seen an enthusiastic, vibrant, joyous celebration of language and culture.

The main purpose of language weeks is to celebrate, revive, and preserve the diverse heritage languages and cultures of Pacific communities living in Aotearoa, and we have included wider international communities. Students and staff have embraced the opportunity to share their language and cultural traditions.



Cook Islands Māori Language Week

"Me kite koe i te tuatua i to'ou reo tupuna, e turanga rangatira tena nō'ou no te uki amuri atu", which translates to "With our language as our foundation, we will embrace the future."



Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

The theme is "Ake, Ake, Ake – A Forever Language" with a special focus on "Te Reo Towns". It was a fun week, raising the profile of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga at Aorere College.



Indian Languages Week

It was an opportunity to celebrate the many languages of the Indian subcontinent, while enjoying colorful costumes, shared food, and rich cultural traditions.



Tongan Language Week

"Ko 'etau hiva, ko e fe'unu mahu'inga ia ki he mo'ui 'a e Tonga," which translates to "Our music is a vital strand of our Tongan culture".



Afghan Language Week

Our Afghan student community may be small, but the pride, energy and spirit they brought to the week was huge. All students embraced the opportunity to learn, participate and connect.

ART SUCCESS

Pat Hanly Creative Arts Exhibition

Congratulations to Mikala Puia - her work - 'A Room Remembers' was selected for the Pat Hanley Creative Awards Exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki earlier this term.

The Pat Hanly Creativity Project is a prestigious programme that celebrates and nurtures the creativity of young artists from schools across Auckland. It provides students with the opportunity to develop their artistic skills, engage with professional artists and educators, and exhibit their work in a highly regarded public space. Several of our senior art students attended the workshops, and the judges then select one work from each school for the exhibition. @aorere_college_art





Mikala Puia's triptych 'A Room Remembers' - recently exhibited at the Auckland Art Gallery

DANCE

Blueprint Schools Street Dance



We were thrilled to celebrate our ākonga for taking 3rd place in their debut appearance at the regional competition, competing against 18 top schools across the North Island. Performing first our dancers also earned the prestigious Spirit of Blueprint Award in recognition of their exceptional character and talent. Huge thanks to Moni, Julia, Mareta, and all our behind-the-scenes supporters for making this milestone possible. With the Dance Showcase recently the momentum is building towards AO Elite'sTerm 4 competition at House of Champions in Brisbane, Australia.



Dance Showcase 'Threads'

The Aorere Dance Showcase 'Threads' performed at the Mangere Arts Centre this week was an incredible success. Well done to all of our ākonga on their incredible hard work and commitment to putting on an outstanding show. The night was filled with personal storytelling, impactful energy and cultural significance.





Thank you to whānau and friends who came to support the show and helped lift our ākonga up to achieve at their highest level.

@aoreredance



Y12 ENGLISH

Our recent trip to the ASB Waterfront Theatre in the Auckland CBD offered students a valuable opportunity to see their studied text 'MACBETH' brought to life on stage. For many, this was their first time attending a live theatrical production. Student responses were positive, noting the performance's intensity, humour, and unique staging while drawing comparisons between the written work and its live adaptation.

COMMERCE

Year 13 Business Students Shine at YES Market Day

Our Year 13 Business students recently had the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) Market Day at Karanga Plaza.

Five Business groups represented our school, each bringing along their own products, stall decorations and business ideas. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to put their classroom learning into practice by marketing, selling and engaging with real customers in a busy market environment.

The Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) allows high school students to experience what it is like to start and run their own business. Students develop a business idea, create and market a product or service, manage finances, work as a team and gain valuable real-world business experience throughout the year.







DIT - PTECH Taster







What do fingerprinting, shoeprint matching and chromatography have in common with Digital Technologies? Problem-solving!

At the Year 10 P-Tech IT Taster, students took on a whodunnit challenge, analysing clues and evidence to work out who was responsible for the crime. Their investigation involved fingerprinting, matching shoeprints and using chromatography (to analyse ink samples) to help uncover the culprit.

While it might not have looked like a typical IT activity, the challenge was designed to give students a taste of the problem-solving, teamwork, critical thinking and analytical skills that are at the heart of Digital Technologies.

SCIENCE NEWS

EPRO 8 Engineering Challenge

Our Aorere College students recently took part in the EPRO8 Engineering and Robotics Competition at James Cook High School, where they put their engineering, creativity, and teamwork skills to the test.

Working together under pressure, the team tackled a range of exciting design and construction challenges, demonstrating perseverance, collaboration, and innovative thinking throughout the evening.





Health Science Academy Fono

Our Health Science Academy (HSA) Fono Evening was a great success, with over 150 attendees joining us to celebrate our students' dedication to the Health Science Academy programme.

Year 11, Year 12, and Year 13 students proudly received their HSA badges in recognition of their commitment to the programme. Students also shared their experiences in the Health Science Academy, reflecting on their journey.

We were privileged to welcome our special guests from Moana Connect, as well as Aorere College HSA alumnus Dr Meleisea, who encouraged and inspired our students through their shared experiences.



UoA - Physics in Motion

Level 3 Physics students took part in an engaging Smart Carts workshop delivered by the University of Auckland's Women in Engineering Outreach team. Students put their learning about kinematics and motion into a real-world context, using precision Smart Carts and motion data to explore displacement, acceleration and deceleration.

It was a fantastic hands-on experience that allowed students to connect classroom Physics with engineering, problem-solving and mathematical thinking — while having plenty of fun along the way!



HEALTH CENTRE

Our amazing Health Centre nurses continue to involve our ākonga in keeping our spaces and ourselves healthy and safe. They run fun quizes focused on a topic.

The recent quiz was 'Keep our Campus Safe!' and the winning entries were selected for their thoughtful suggestions and for demonstrating the College's values of Tikanga, Whanaungatanga, Kaitiakitanga, Manaakitanga, Rangatiratanga and Hiranga.

One student from each year level was selected, and huge congratulations to Noraiz Raza (9RV), Aurora Green (10MR), Scarlett Tapa (11PD), LJ Setefano (12BT), and Lenix Stevens-Ratu (13SG)



INTERNATIONAL

Our busiest term of the year!

Term 3 saw the International Department welcome a fantastic mix of visiting groups, short-term individual students and longer-term students from around the world.

China - We welcomed a short-term group from Nanpu Experimental Middle School, as well as individual Chinese students, giving them the opportunity to experience Aorere school and homestay life.

Japan - Students from Kasumigaura and Jishukan High Schools, along with individual Japanese students, joined classes, activities and buddy programmes, building friendships and experiencing everyday life in New Zealand.

Taiwan - A group of 20 Indigenous students joined us for a special two-way cultural exchange, sharing their own Indigenous culture while learning about Māori culture and tikanga.

Brazil - 12 Brazilian students joined Aorere, becoming part of regular classes and wider school life, with some continuing into Term 4.

Activities and cultural experiences - Students enjoyed opportunities including Wero Whitewater Park and Wero Climb, taonga carving, cultural workshops and Rainbow's End, helping build confidence, friendships and shared experiences.

Our homestay community - Our homestay families played a huge part in the term, welcoming visiting students into their homes and giving them the opportunity to experience everyday New Zealand family life.

Aorere students travelling further afield - Our own students also had opportunities to experience life beyond Auckland, with trips to Queenstown, Singapore and Vietnam, developing independence and experiencing new places and cultures.

Japan bound - Over the next two weeks, Aorere students will head to Japan on two exchange programmes with Jishukan and Hokkaido, along with our wider Japan Trip - another exciting opportunity for our students to experience school, family and cultural life overseas.

Overall, it has been an extremely busy and rewarding term, full of opportunities for cultural exchange, new friendships, independence and learning from one another.

A huge thank you to our parents, homestay families and teachers for all their support in making these experiences possible for our students and international visitors.

@aorereinternational

















SPORT

Sporting Successes

@aoreresport

It has been an outstanding term 3 for sport at Aorere College, with several teams achieving championship success across the Counties Manukau competitions.

- 1st XI Boys Football – Crowned Counties Manukau Champions, securing the title for the first time in school history.
- Senior A Netball – Crowned Counties Manukau Champions after an outstanding season of competition.
- Junior Boys Basketball – Crowned Counties Manukau Champions, marking the first championship win since 2010.

These achievements are a reflection of the dedication, commitment and hard work of our athletes, coaches and wider school community. Congratulations to all teams on an incredible year of sporting success!

UNISS
(Upper North Island Secondary Schools)

UNISS 2026 was held in Hamilton from 31 August – 4 September, with our girls competing in the A Grade division against some of the top schools in the country.

The girls fought hard in every game, showed great determination, and never gave up, representing our school with pride throughout the tournament. Their commitment, resilience and team spirit were outstanding.

A special thank you to Coach Norma Masoe for her time, dedication and efforts throughout the season. Your commitment to the team is truly appreciated.



1st XI Girls Football

History was made this term as Aorere's 1st XI Girls Football team entered their very first Auckland Invitational Football tournament at Ellerslie Football Club.

Our squad of 7 junior and 9 senior students faced tough competition, playing 6 games against 5 top schools from around New Zealand. Heading into the week with a clear goal—to improve every single half—the girls showed remarkable perseverance, spirit, and growth. By their final match, the team was playing its best football of the season, holding their own against experienced high-level competition. The valuable exposure and key learnings from this tournament set a strong foundation as the team prepares for the 2027 season.



1st XIII Rugby League Nationals

Reflecting on our 2026 Rugby League Nationals campaign, we want to acknowledge the incredible effort and commitment shown by our players and coaching staff. Heading into the tournament, the team was fortunate to welcome a former Aorere College Rugby League alumnus, Marata Niukore, to training. He shared his experiences and reminded the boys of the pride that comes with wearing the school jersey—providing great motivation ahead of Nationals. On the field, the team represented Aorere College with heart, determination, and resilience, supporting each other and competing right through to the final whistle. Our key highlights and achievements:

- Tournament Finish: 12th out of 20 teams—a result the players can be truly proud of.
- Growth & Experience: Beyond the final standings, the tournament offered invaluable player development and lasting memories.

A huge thank you to Mr Bureta, Mr Anderson, Mr Vaipaata, and Mr Aiono for their dedicated coaching and support, as well as Miss Masoe for her essential work behind the scenes. Finally, congratulations to our players. You represented Aorere College with immense pride and gave everything on the field—well done!



Junior Boys Basketball Champions!

Congratulations to our Junior Boys Basketball team on their outstanding commitment and hard work, which led to a championship win at the Auckland Basketball Tournament.

The last time Aorere College entered the Auckland Championships ranked #1 was in 2010. In a special full-circle moment, coach Mr Ray Penny—who was a Year 10 player on that very 2010 team—has now mentored this year's squad to victory.

Ngā mihi to Mr Penny for your unwavering passion, leadership, and dedication to our young athletes over the years.



Badminton - CMBA Competition & 'Clash of the Smash'

This season has been an incredible journey for our badminton teams. Thanks to the Counties Manukau Badminton Association, our students had the opportunity to compete over two terms, playing eight different schools across both seasons. Congratulations to C & D Grades.

C Grade: Took home 2nd place, narrowly missing the top spot by just 3 points.
D Grade: Crowned Champions!

The C Grade placing means we will now progress to B Grade. A special thank you to Coach Shaun from Counties Manukau Badminton, whose guidance and encouragement made a real difference to our players' growth and confidence.

The Clash of the Smash event was another highlight of the season. Our students loved the experience, enjoyed meeting and competing against players from other schools, and learnt so much by watching and challenging different styles of play. It was a valuable opportunity that helped them grow both as players and as teammates.

We are incredibly proud of their commitment, enthusiasm as they made every effort to attend games, supported one another, and represented our school with pride.







MUSIC - 'SUSO' Finale

It is fantastic that we have three groups performing in the Stand Up Stand Out finals on Saturday, 26th September.

- Group Vocals - 4-Tet and Tataki he AO
- Band - L3GACY

It is a testament to their amazing talent and the dedication and committment of their music teachers, Mr V Telefoni and Mr S Malamala. We are incredibly proud of them.

'Own the stage!'







OED - Tongariro Camp

This term our very fortunate L3OED rangatahi got to experience our amazing outdoors at the Hillary Outdoor Education Camp at Tongariro. They also visited the site of the Mangatepopo Canyon disaster.

The Tongariro camp was an unforgettable adventure filled with challenge, exploration and plenty of laughs. Students pushed themselves through caves, climbed in the snow, explored the outdoors, endured physical and mental challenges, and even shared stories around the campfire. It was a fantastic opportunity to build resilience, strengthen friendships and create memories that will last well beyond their school years.









Haere Rā, Mrs Tapu!

At the beginning of this term our school community gathered at the Jennifer Tapu, Mala'e Pasefika to celebrate, reminisce, and honour a true pillar of Aorere College. After 23 years of dedicated service, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Jennie Tapu, who was surrounded by her beloved 'āiga—her husband Tauanu'u, her children, grandchildren and extended family.

Jennie joined Aorere College in 2004 from McAuley High School, hired by our then-principal, the late Mr Mike Williams. As one of the original pioneers of Samoan language education in New Zealand, she championed gagana Samoa and culture at every level:

- Integrating the Samoan language into the curriculum.
- Led our Samoan group at ASB Polyfest and speech competitions, and led Samoan Language Weeks.
- As the "mother of Pasifika languages" at Aorere, her vision laid the groundwork for our Pasifika spaces—culminating in the opening of the Jennifer Tapu, Mala'e Pasefika Centre in 2024, which now also supports bilingual pathway programs in Tongan and Cook Islands Māori.

The evening was a joyful celebration filled with honour and gratitude. Speeches and siva honoured Jennie's contribution with sincere appreciation aroha. There were many laughs and tears as memories were recalled and shared.

Mrs Tapu spoke with deep alofa for her students, reflecting on her early determination to successfully establish Samoan language at Aorere when none existed. In a moving gesture of generosity, Mrs Tapu, alongside her husband Tauanu'u and their 'āiga, presented the school with a scholarship, fine mats, and a siapo

Fa'afetai tele lava, Mrs Tapu! Thank you for 23 years of unwavering passion, mentorship, and service. You have shaped generations of Pasifika youth, and your legacy at Aorere College will live on forever. Fa'amanuia le Atua i lou fa'amaitega!



For more ...

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