



Message From The Principal

In the last week there have been a number of significant events I wish to acknowledge.

Ako Interviews

My thanks to the many parents and caregivers who came to the Ako interviews on 26 February. It was fantastic to see such a large turnout and everybody I talked to (as they were leaving) was positive about the worth of these interviews.

My thanks to the Office Staff for doing a superb job of organisation, and to our teaching staff for their extraordinary effort. In some cases individual Ako teachers had twenty plus interviews in the day.

Cyber Safety

On Monday 05 March, we had John Parsons talk to our entire College community about cyber safety and cyber bullying. John is New Zealand's leading exponent on appropriate policies and procedures, and also makes recommendations of good practice for parents and caregivers in terms of keeping their children safe online.

As well as speaking to all students John ran a staff professional development session and a community education forum for parents in the evening. Such is the topical nature of cyber safety that John has to be booked about a year in advance. We will certainly be having him return in the future.

Pacific Island Achievement Awards

On Tuesday 05 March, we had a number of students and their parents/caregivers attend the Pacific Island Achievement Awards, hosted this year at Christchurch Boys' High School. This is a joint venture evening between the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and our Ministry of Education. The evening acknowledges the academic and leadership achievements of the top Pacific Island students from our region.

Cultural Meeting

On Monday, 11 March, we are hosting a cultural meeting for our Filipino community. This will be held at Hampstead Rugby Club, starting at 5:30pm, and we would love to see Filipino parents and family at this meeting. It is a chance for staff to hear the aspirations of our Filipino parents for their children and of our College. My thanks to all those who can attend.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

As you will realise we encourage a policy of 'bringing your own device' to College. This ensures that all of our students have access to learning any time, and anywhere within our campus. We have devices available for students who do not have them or have had some sort of technical malfunction, because we do not want them to be disadvantaged. However, it is concerning that a number of students are reportedly not bringing their devices to school because of the inconvenience of having to carry them around. We are discouraging this practice as it can impact on those with a genuine need to use the loan equipment.

Calendar Highlights

As a school we are gearing up for a couple of highlights on our calendar. The first of these is our Summer Tournament Week which starts on Monday 25 March. Once again we have a huge number of teams competing and I will be going to the final two days of Maadi Cup's rowing at Lake Karapiro.

The second event is Ash Dance which is scheduled for Tuesday 19 March. This is always a good night with a huge variety of different dance offerings. The best thing about it is that all presenters get a fantastic level of support no matter what the genre of dance. Sadly, my offer to do a solo interpretive mime was rejected.



Ross Preece
Principal

Information

AshDance 2019

AshColl's Dance Showcase

- All styles of Dance – from Ballet to Hip Hop
- Class groups, Cultural groups, Solo performances

Performance night:
Tuesday 19 March, 7:00pm, College Auditorium.

Tickets: \$3:00
Available from the College Office,
from Wednesday 27 February.
Tickets for pre-purchase only, no door sales.

Remaining Ropes Course Dates

Annually our Year 9 students travel to Geraldine to take part in the Challenge Ropes Course there, under the watchful eye of experienced instructors.

Remaining classes/dates are:
Monday 11 March - 9W
Tuesday 12 March - 9X
Wednesday 20 March - 9Y

Events

Year 12 Outdoor Education Trip to Adrenalin Forest

On Tuesday 19 February, both Year 12 Outdoor Education classes headed off to Adrenalin Forest for their first trip of the year.

Teacher Luke Martin said the focus of this trip was to allow students the opportunity to get to know each other and build positive relationships within both classes, outside the classroom.

The weather was ideal, not too hot and not too cold and, after a ten minute 'how to' by the staff at Adrenalin Forest, the students were off.

(Pictured right): Students being shown the ropes (pun fully known!)



Once left to their own devices, students had six different levels to attempt. All students were eager to challenge themselves and push themselves to their limits. With several students wary of heights it made for a few entertaining moments.

What impressed Luke the most was the students' behaviour and willingness to help each other out when needed, with great team spirit shown throughout the day and many students asked when they could go back again.

(Pictured): Students taking on Adrenalin Forest



(Pictured left): Lochie Stockdale.

(Pictured below, left and right): Kirari Suga, Yuno Hioki.



(Pictured left): Hayley Tallentire.

Events

Overseas Experiences for Students

This week we hear about the experiences of another of our College overseas travellers.

Maigen O'Neill, like Leanne Walsh whose story was in last week's newsletter, gained her exchange opportunity through the Your Education programme. Maigen travelled to Ireland, County Cork, where she was enrolled in Kanturk School.

Maigen said there are a range of countries available to choose from, with some requiring language proficiency. Although open to all secondary school students Your Education does recommend students are Year 11 and above, so they have sufficient maturity to adapt to travel, a host family and the various experiences of travel.

The cost also varies, depending on the destination country, and Maigen said that although the exchanges are self-funded, Your Education gives good fundraising ideas for participants and they make all the arrangements, including host family arrangements. Participants have to write to their host family giving relevant information and are also required to sign agreed contracts around behaviour standards.

Maigen left New Zealand on 01 December, returning towards the end of January, so she had Christmas overseas. She said the opportunity was a good experience from which she learnt a lot, developed her people skills and was able to be involved in a different schooling system. While at school there she took history, learning more about the Irish history, which she found interesting. The English curriculum was different to what she was used to in New Zealand, with a lot of poetry and Shakespeare!



(Pictured left): The church Maigen went to with her host family on Christmas Eve.

The school day started at a similar time to here, with 45-50 minute periods, but was longer, ending around 4:00pm. Because she was at school there for only a short time Maigen said there wasn't the same pressure put on as there would be for a longer-stay student. Due to her short tenure she didn't take Irish Gaelic but took English (as mentioned), Biology, Art, Home Economics, Mathematics, and Phys Ed, which is a compulsory subject at that school.

Maigen said she enjoyed getting to meet new people, and the sightseeing, visiting Cork, Dublin and Killarney. She loved being there and wanted to go back, saying the people were 'really nice' and that she loved her host family.

(Pictured right): A Cork Alleyway.

She would recommend others try for such opportunities but said experiences can be different depending on where a student goes and to what school. Being there for a short time can make it more difficult to become part of a group, as you are always going to be leaving soon. But, she said, definitely give it a go and especially if there is a language-learning option. Overall, Maigen said it was a really great experience and she claims now to have the travel bug!



(Pictured clockwise from above): Dublin at night and two photos from the geographical Ring of Kerry area.

Information

Community Meeting

A series of meetings is being held with our ethnic communities in order for the College to gain information on how we can best support students and families.

Further through this term an additional meeting will be held for families who were not involved in the Māori whanau hui or the Pasifika family meetings.

The remaining meeting is being held as below, and is open to all interested people.

- Filipino community Monday 11 March

The meeting is being held at the Hampstead Rugby Club rooms, Bridge Street, Netherby, starting at 5:30pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Events

Upgraded Toilet Block Completed

As reported later last year the A Block toilets were in the process of receiving an upgrade due to the initiative of College students and staff, and with a huge thank you to a range of sponsors and donors.

Deputy Head Boy Carl Cayanan outlined this project very well at the first full-College Assembly held on Monday 11 February.

Carl advised that late last year Science teacher Shelly Robson and Withdrawal Room Supervisor Jayne Cornelius spoke with Principal Ross Preece, and Executive Officer Charlie Kelland about an idea they had seen on Facebook. Carl said that they heard from the students about what our toilet facilities were like here at school, and they wanted to make a change and improve them for students.

With enthusiasm, Ross Preece and Charlie Kelland gave them their blessing. However, with almost no dollars to put into the project, they went forth into the community to ask for help, and for donations of any kind, from paint to equipment.

Without the following people saying 'yes', this project would have not gone ahead:

- Jo Skilling and Carl Johnston from Colour Plus** were the first to say yes, and they supplied 50 litres of paint, paint brushes, and various other equipment items. Carl also donated a lot of his time to this project. For all of this we say a massive thank you to you both.
- Mary from Bunnings** was the second to say yes, by supplying a box full of additional equipment such as disposable overalls, buckets and painting equipment.
- Rob Hampton** came on board by supplying boards. All of the artwork that has been created has been painted on to boards kindly donated to College by him.
- Resene** donated 8 Litres of paint.
- Warren and Richard**, our two wonderful caretakers, spent extra time cleaning the two spaces, and lending us vital equipment such as ladders and drills.
- Leanne and Brooke Miller**, enthusiastically got involved and donated their own time to come in and paint.
- Our Head Student team for 2019** - Harriet, Mollie, Carl and William, each donated several days of their summer holidays to come in and paint.
- Maisie Looij, William Hii, Marcus Bishop, Luvepa Falealili, Maretta Terekaia and Jaimee Chute** gave up their time on Get Out There day last year.
- And last but not least - our teachers** who rolled up their sleeves and got in behind this. **These were** - Jayne Cornelius, Shelly Robson, Sarah Lassen, Hannah Young, Peter Lee, Serrana Ruginitz, Vicky Poole, Liz Carrick, Laura Wood, Greta Hampton and Principal Ross Preece.

Carl went on to say a huge thank you all those mentioned, for everything they have done, emphasising that the project from start to the finish has been for students.

He challenged students, saying if they want to see this change happen in other toilet blocks around the school, there is opportunity. Carl reminded students that this outcome happened because a lot of people put in the hard work. We don't have a magic wand that we can wave to instantly change things, what we have is people who want to make a difference.



His concluding statement reminded all that 'change won't happen without you'.

Congratulations

Ashburton College Athletics Finals

Finals Day took place in ideal weather, on Thursday 28 February.

Head of Sport Ron Carlson said that, overall, the number of athletes was down a little on last year. However those who did participate very well, resulting in some close competitions, and a very good feel to the day.

Year 12 Student Tara Mellish Obliterates Previous High Jump Record

This year there was one new record set, by Tara Mellish in the Under 16 Girls' High Jump.

Tara's new mark of 1m 53cm was a most impressive 10cm higher than the old mark set in 2000 by Anya Whiting. A minor injury prevented Tara from attempting the bar at an even higher level.

Overall Results

In both the track and field events there were some very close events, with only the points of a second or centimetres separating competitors.

Potentially this could lead to some good results if all of the students selected for the College team can attend the Aoraki Athletics Championships on Wednesday 13 March in Timaru.

2019 Grade Champions were:

- Under 19 Boys:** Champion - Ben Donald
Runner Up - Quinn Ritchie
- Under 19 Girls:** Champion - Emma Stagg
Runner Up - Natasha Waddell
- Under 16 Boys:** Champion - Kyle Cabangun
Runner Up - Flynn Mackenzie
- Under 16 Girls:** Champion - Tara Mellish
Runner Up - Mia Pearson
- Under 15 Boys:** Champion - Matt Pearce
Runner Up - Matthew Hopkins
- Under 15 Girls:** Champion - Ella Pearson
Runner Up - Lusungu Mbambo
- Under 14 Boys:** Champion - Jim Reyes
Runner Up - Regan Lilley/Jack Jones
- Under 14 Girls:** Joint Champions -
Jessie Pitney/ Te Whetu Mapu-Patea

(Pictured right, front): Under 15 Boys' Runner-Up Matthew Hopkins receives the baton from Tuvale Tuvale in the Under 15 Boys' relay event.



(Pictured below): Under 19 Girls' Champion Emma Stagg in full flight in the Long Jump.



(Pictured right, left to right):



(Pictured right, left and right): Quinn Ritchie, Under 19 Boys' Runner-Up, receives the baton from Tom Middleton in the House Relay event.



(Pictured above, left to right): Under 15 Girls' relay - Ally Power, Gemma Tapurau, Lusungu Mbambo, (Under 15 Girls' Runner-Up) and Cassidy Mann.

Official Photographer Role for Brittany Fowler at Horse of the Year Show

The annual Land Rover Horse of the Year Show is New Zealand's premier equestrian competition, being held at the Hawke's Bay A & P Showgrounds from 12-17 March. The show features over 1400 riders and 1800 horses across multiple disciplines.

College Year 13 student Brittany Fowler is excited to have been asked to be an official photographer at this event.

As well as having equestrian success herself, Brittany has been photographer at a range of shows, including the South Island Welsh Ponies Show in Ashburton early February, and the Pony Breeders Show in Rakaia mid-February.

A major event for her was in December, as photographer of the Welsh Ponies sections at the South Island Premier Show, at the Christchurch A & P Grounds. Held over three days, Brittany had a total of 6000 photos to sort through. She indicated the days are long as, once the event is finished between 5:00pm-6:00pm, it is then the time to sort, edit and upload, which can take until after midnight. Needing to be up again at 6:00am ready for the next day certainly made for long hours. Photos at this show were across all classes: showing, in hand and ridden.

Posting photos on-line as early as possible is the way, however, to gain business and sales. As a family they are accustomed to the demands of photography as Brittany's dad used to be a photographer and Brittany said this is how she got started.

The weekend before the Christchurch event Brittany was a photographer at the Show Horse Council, and Australian competition from which riders can qualify to compete in the Grand Nationals in Australia.

It was via this pathway that she was approached to be a photographer at the Horse of the Year Show, where she will be photographing across the board, covering Welsh Ponies on the Tuesday and Pony Breeders on the Sunday, in which there are likely to be over twenty classes in each.

Around these commitments Brittany is juggling her own equestrian calendar. She will be flying up to the Horse of the Year on the Monday night before the event starts, but returning at the end of the week in order to compete in the fourth and final trial for the Canterbury Eventing Team. Brittany is already in the dressage section, where just the one trial was held. In the eventing disciplines there are four trials, with the top three scores counting. As Brittany said, there is a lot of competition for places. The team will compete in Auckland at a three day competition mid-March.

Coming Events

- March 08** Canterbury Secondary Schools' Triathlon, Newnham, Christchurch.
- 08-10** SISS Rowing Championships, Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel.
- 11** 9W Ropes Course, Geraldine High School. Canterbury Secondary Schools' Golf, Harewood Golf Club, Christchurch.
- 12** 9X Ropes Course, Geraldine High School.
- 13** Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Timaru Otago Polytech liaison visit. World Vision Youth Conference, The Piano Centre, Christchurch.
- 14** Postponement day, Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics.
- 15** Postponement day, Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics.
- 16** Polyfest, Red Zone, Burwood, Christchurch.
- 18** Ashburton College Swimming Sports, EA Networks Centre.
- 19** AshDance, College Auditorium.
- 20** 9Y Ropes Course, Geraldine High School. Special Olympics, Timaru. Registrar of Electors visit.
- 22** Year 9 Wetlands Field Trip, Westerfield.
- 23** SISS Dragon Boat Championships, Lake Hood, Ashburton.
- 23-24** SISS Touch Championships, Sheldon Park, Christchurch.

Term Dates 2019

Term One	Term Two	Term Three	Term Four
Monday 29 April	Monday 29 April	Monday 22 July	Monday 14 October
Teacher Only Day	Teacher Only Day	Mid-term break	
Queen's Birthday holiday	Queen's Birthday holiday		
Monday 22 July	Monday 22 July		
Friday 02 August	Friday 02 August		
Friday 03 September	Friday 03 September		
Friday 27 September	Friday 27 September		
Monday 03 June	Monday 03 June		
Monday 04 November (Year 12)	Monday 04 November (Year 12)		
Monday 05 November (Year 11)	Monday 05 November (Year 11)		
Thursday 12 December (Year 10)	Thursday 12 December (Year 10)		
Friday 13 December (Year 9)	Friday 13 December (Year 9)		

