



### Message From The Principal

#### College Uniform Worn With Pride

Recently we have had a concerted effort to improve the standard of our student appearance. In surveys parents and caregivers have consistently reinforced the need for a school uniform, and the expectation that it will be worn correctly. We have a number of uniform options available to suit student preference.

My thanks are given to those parents and caregivers who have supported our drive to have our students looking smart.



With the onset of winter can I urge parents to make sure that their children have appropriate uniform items to cope with the cold.

#### Pasifika Awards Evening

Last week myself and James Jenkinson, College's Pasifika Events Support Co-ordinator, attended the Pasifika Awards evening in Christchurch.

At this event two of our students were recognised for their leadership within our school. Richard Foaga was recognised for his leadership and Uatifoti Saofai came runner-up to the top academic performing Pasifika secondary student in the whole of the Canterbury region. Uati has endorsed with Excellence at both NCEA Level 1 and Level 2.

Currently our Pasifika students are preparing for Polyfest Canterbury 2018 on 17 March in Christchurch. We are delighted with their preparation for this event and particularly appreciate the support from a number of our Pasifika parents with rehearsals.

It has also been fantastic to note that we have about sixty five performers in this group, including a number of our Asian international students.

Anybody in the Christchurch area on 17 March would be assured of a great day's entertainment should they attend the festival, which is being held at the Red Zone, Dallington, New Brighton Road and Locksley Avenue. At the time of writing this we do not know when Ashburton College will be on stage but we will publicise this via Facebook as soon as the time is released.

#### Review of Education

It has been pleasing to note that the Government is undertaking a Review of Education. This includes some adjustments to NCEA and a consideration regarding future curriculum and assessment practices.

It is clear that the Government recognises that the previous reliance on rote learning and exam assessment will no longer serve learners in preparation for their future. The briefing report from the Ministry of Education acknowledges the need for learners to be resilient, creative problem-solvers, good communicators, and they must be able to work as part of a team. All of these things are being considered as we work on restructuring our future curriculum and assessment to make it more relevant for the future.

#### SPANZ Conference

Next week I am out of College at the SPANZ (Secondary Principals of New Zealand) Conference which is a New Zealand-wide meeting of Secondary School Principals.

#### Aon Maadi Cup - Rowing

From SPANZ Conference I will then attend the final three days of the Maadi Cup at Twizel. Our rowers will no doubt give their all for our College. They are a dedicated bunch who train twice a day throughout the season, and three times a day over the summer holiday period, and their numbers are growing.

We are very fortunate that our rowers enjoy significant parental support, both in terms of transport but also fundraising. The latter causes rowing to be an affordable sport for anybody. I would like to acknowledge parents and caregivers, Coach Justin Wall, and the whole Rowing Committee for the brilliant job they do of organising this sport.

Many thanks  
Ross Preece  
Principal

### Information

#### Volunteer Reader/Writer Assistance – Can You Help?

Ashburton College appreciates and values the high level of community support it receives across a range of activities.

Currently we are looking to increase volunteer assistance in the area of Reader/Writer support to students, and would really welcome your response if you can help –

#### Reader/Writer Assistance to Students

A number of students are identified as qualifying for reader/writer support. College therefore needs a group of adults to call on who can, on occasions, assist a student in an assessment/exam situation. Training is given.

If you can give an hour or two at various times during the year, enjoy students, and have literacy and/or computer skills, this may be a role for you. In-College exam dates for 2018 are:

- 28-31 May (Year 11);
  - 22-24 and 27, 28 August (Years 11, 12, 13).
- NCEA Exams start 07 November (some assistance required).

For more information or offers to help, please contact:

Helen Shore-Taylor, Deputy Principal  
308 4193, ext 830 or sh@ashcoll.school.nz

### Information

#### Cyber Safety Presentation

Are you a parent/caregiver concerned about how your child uses the internet or mobile phone?

Hosted by New Zealand Cyber Security expert  
**John Parsons**  
this presentation is available to you:

**Ashburton College Auditorium**  
**Next Monday, 19 March: 7:00pm-8:30pm.**  
There is no admission charge.

John Parsons will give real-life examples of children who have been affected by cybercrime and give you knowledge to help support and protect your family.

#### Topics to be covered include:

On-line grooming, Sexting, Damaged Reputations, Cyber-bullying, Reputation Management, Learning to Repel and Report, Future-proofing for Employment.

All College students will attend sessions through the school day, also on 19 March, and staff after school.

For further information, go into the web-site: [www.s2e.co.nz](http://www.s2e.co.nz)



#### Invitation to Final Dress Rehearsal for Polyfest Canterbury 2018

Parents, caregivers, family and friends are invited to watch the final Dress Rehearsal for the Polyfest Performers.

College Auditorium from 1:40pm-3:00pm  
Friday 16 March.

There is no admission charge.



Polyfest itself takes place on Saturday 17 March, at the Red Zone, Dallington, Christchurch on the corner of New Brighton Road and Locksley Avenue, from 9:30am-4:30pm (Gold Coin Entry).

We encourage attendance by those who are able.

### Coming Events

#### March

- 16 Year 13 History Trip, Akaroa. 9RD Ropes Course, Geraldine.
- 17 Polyfest Canterbury 2018 - Red Zone Dallington, Corner of New Brighton Road and Locksley Avenue, 9:30am - 4:30pm (Gold Coin Entry).
- 19 John Parsons - Cyber Safety: all classes during the day, Parents/Caregivers/Community, Auditorium, 7:00pm. Year 12 AGS, Group 3, Chertsey Farm.
- 19-20 NZSS Triathlon and Aquathlon, Rabbit Island, Nelson.
- 19-23 Mountain Biking Nationals, Rotorua
- 21 Mountain Bike XC series, Crocodile XC MTB Park, Halswell, Christchurch.
- 19-25 Summer Tournament Week: South Island Secondary Schools' Bowls Tournament, Timaru.
- 19-25 NZ Secondary Schools' Rowing Championships, Maadi Cup, Twizel.
- 20 SLSU Athletics Group, Aoraki Events Centre, Timaru.
- 20-21 South Island Secondary Schools' Rugby 7s (Under 15 Boys, Year 9 Girls), Timaru.
- 21 Cycling - National Schools' Track Championships, Cambridge.
- 21 Aoraki Secondary Schools' Croquet Tournament, Ashburton.
- 21-23 South Island Secondary Schools' 3x3 Basketball Championships, Tauranga.
- 22 Postponement Day - Aoraki Secondary Schools' Croquet Tournament, Ashburton.
- 22-23 Aoraki Secondary Schools' 3x3 Basketball Tournament, Timaru.
- 22-23 South Island Secondary Schools' Golf Tournament, Lower Waitaki Golf Club, Oamaru.
- 23-25 South Island Secondary Schools' Athletics, Timaru.
- 23-26 PASCH Wissenswelten Workshop (MINT Course), Burnside High School, Christchurch.

### Events

#### Pascal Gymnasium Exchange – Germany

We continue our write-ups on College students who have been overseas on school-related opportunities, and this week we hear from Year 13 students **Tom Suh** and **Caleb Livingstone**.

Tom and Caleb left New Zealand on 28 November for Grevenbroich, Germany, to start a two and a half month exchange, which operates between Ashburton College and our Sister School, Pascal Gymnasium.



(Pictured left, left and right): Caleb and Tom at Auckland airport just prior to departure.

The opportunity is available to all Year 11 and 12 students, with College's teacher of German, Ken Pow, promoting the information on this and all exchanges. Tom noted that there are usually more German students wanting to come to New Zealand than the reverse, which does mean a number of students from Germany miss out on the experience.

Exchange students pay for their own flights, and are responsible for their own spending money but, while in Germany, other expenses are minimal due to host family accommodation and care.

Tom and Caleb each stayed with a host family and, as the word exchange implies, the event is reciprocal with their host 'sibling' travelling to Ashburton to spend the equivalent time with their families here, and attending Ashburton College. They each started at College two weeks ago, on 22 February and will be here for the balance of Term One.

In Germany Tom and Caleb attended school and adapted to life in another country. Initially dealing with classes via the German language was a challenge and they indicated they didn't understand too much in the first three weeks or so but then started to absorb more and could translate what was being said. Both students have studied German language and life at College since Year 9.

Their exchange families also ensured they saw something of Europe while they were there, with Caleb travelling with the family for a five day skiing holiday in Austria, while Tom had a four day trip to Berlin. Both were given time to experience activities of their choosing also.

(Pictured right): Caleb on the Austrian Alps skifield.



(Pictured below right): Caleb at a Christmas market in front of Cologne Cathedral, in Cologne.

One of their own trips of choice was taking a weekend trip to Munich, minus accommodation costs, as they travelled the eight hours there and back on an overnight bus, visiting the sights of the city during the day.

A positive factor was what they classed as the freedom to choose what they experienced as opposed to back in New Zealand where schooling, emphasis on outcomes, various commitments and family, made choice options less flexible.

Positives included experiencing various cities and another culture, particularly during the Christmas season with many Christmas markets operating, and snow happening at that time of year. Tom said a highlight at the New Year's celebrations was an impressive fireworks display while, for Caleb, an enduring memory was the skiing in Austria in the Alps. This was close to a small village where he sat at a market listening to live music, to the backdrop of the Austrian mountains. Choosing to stay on for an extra two weeks meant they could enjoy a major carnival festival and all that that entailed.

(Pictured left, left and right):

Tom and Caleb in the Munic Residenz in central Munich, the former Royal Palace of the Wittelsbach Monarchs of Bavaria.

The Residenz is the largest city palace in Germany and is today open to visitors for its architecture.

For Caleb it was his first inter-continental experience, while Tom who is originally from South Korea has travelled quite a bit, but not to Europe.

As with all our returnees, their advice to any student considering such an experience is to 'do it'. They emphasised it was really worth doing.

Back in Ashburton on 17 February and now back at school it is a case of catching up on the preceding weeks and work, and they both said they had settled back in well.



### Events

#### Year 9 and 10 Social Studies Students Visits to Ashburton Museum

Angela Mitchell, Head of Social Sciences Faculty, advises that as part of the first term's Year 9 Social Studies theme of 'Identity' and the Year 10 Social Studies 'New Zealand leads the Way' topic, all junior classes have visited the 'Sounds Like Us' Exhibition at the Ashburton Museum over the past two weeks.

The Museum Education Staff led the sessions, centered around the exhibition which celebrates 100 years of Radio in New Zealand. There were two components to the exhibition and each year level focused on the resources specific to their current area of study.

The Year 9 classes were invited to view the model radios created by Weta Workshop. Each represented one of the many aspects of our New Zealand identity – including a pavlova, barbecue, caravan, knitting basket, Māori and Pasifika radios.

The students also spent time exploring the Museum's permanent exhibition celebrating Mid Canterbury, and many capsules were also shown the collection store. This is the Museum's 'time capsule' and there was some interesting discussion about how to preserve the past.

The Year 10 classes also viewed the model radios as they entered the Museum. Their main focus was then to explore the sounds of the past and begin to develop an understanding of historic events that were important to New Zealand.

Students went back in time and listened to radio clips from a variety of different topics and considered how New Zealanders would have felt hearing these at that time. The clips were, on occasions, difficult to hear because of the clarity of early radio and how quickly the presenters spoke. The students came away with a new appreciation for all the ways they can now receive news and listen to music.

#### Collaborative Relationship

This was an exciting first step for Ashburton College and the Ashburton Museum to develop a collaborative relationship. The Museum is a valuable resource for our community and one we would like to utilise more often. Students who were interested in the work of the Museum, and in recording and celebrating the identity of current Mid Canterbury youth, will soon be invited to be part of an extra-curricular project at the Museum.

(Pictured right, back and front): Holly Trotter and Mia Jessep of 9OE, with the 'Barbecue' radio.

(Pictured below, left to right): Tiffany Agacer and Ma Polleen Encarnado, also of 9OE, with Max Reeves (Museum Educator) by the 'Fish 'n Chips' Radio.



9GD Students: (With Max Reeves in session with Mollie Gibson in Museum Education room.

(Pictured right): in the Collection Store with teacher Annie Lees.

### Congratulations

#### Strong Results from South Island Secondary Schools' Rowing Championships

Held on Lake Ruataniwha over the first weekend in March, the rowing team had a very positive build-up to the forthcoming Maadi Cup Championships, also being held on Lake Ruataniwha, from 19-25 March during the National Secondary Schools' Summer Tournament Week.

#### Team members for the weekend's events were -

Lara Biggs, Wyatt Burrows, Aidan Campbell, Logan Cartman, Paddy Dekker, Mollie Gibson, Haxby Hefford, Harrison Davies, Paul Kasanawaqa, Harriet Leverton, Jared Mattson, Emma Stagg, Kauri Te Moananui-Gamble, Ged Wall, with Justin Wall as Coach and Jayne Cornelius Manager.



Jayne Cornelius advised that the rowers left school at lunch time on Friday, arriving in Twizel at rig boats, set tents up and then head out onto the water for a quick practice.

An early start Saturday morning revealed sunshine and a still lake. This was a very busy day on the water for the rowers, with some rowers having seven races. With the heats finished at 2:30pm, it was back to the houses for a rest before finals started.

The rowers row 2kms down to the start line, then race 2kms, so there is a fair bit of energy expended. The final race was held at 6:30pm, after which it was back to the houses for tea and a debrief from Coach Justin Wall.

Sunday started early for the girls who had to be at the lake by 6:30am. Once there, the Cox has to be weighed in and the rowers get prepared for their race, on the erg machine before they get on the water.

For the rowers who have medalled it is a nervous wait afterwards, while they get their boats weighed. Any under-weight boat reaps disqualification.

The final race of the day started at 1:30pm, after which the rowers de-rigged the boats and travelled home, arriving at Lake Hood at 6:00pm to re-rig the boats and wash the vans.

#### Results

From the forty nine schools attending and 1100 competing athletes, Ashburton and College Rowers achieved highly –

- Gold Medal** Mollie Gibson Girls' Under 17 Single Sculls
- Silver Medals** Haxby Hefford Boys' Under 18 Single Sculls
- Emma Stagg, Mollie Gibson Girls' Under 17 Double Sculls



(Pictured above): Gold Medal winner Mollie Gibson.



(Pictured above right, left to right): Silver Medal winners Emma Stagg, Mollie Gibson, Haxby Hefford.

#### A Finals:

- 4th placing Emma Stagg, Mollie Gibson Girls' Under 18 Double Sculls
- 5th placing Ged Wall, Paul Kasanawaqa, Logan Cartman, Paddy Dekker and Harriet Leverton (Cox) Boys' Exhibition Under 18 Novice Coxed Quad Sculls
- 6th placing Ged Wall, Paddy Dekker Boys' Under 18 Novice Double
- 7th placing Harrison Davies Boys' Under 18 Single Sculls
- B Finals:**
- 2nd placing Aidan Campbell, Harrison Davies Boys' Under 18 Double Sculls
- 3rd placing Emma Stagg, Mollie Gibson, Kauri Te Moananui-Gamble, Lara Biggs and Harriet Leverton (Cox) Girls' Under 17 Coxed Quad Sculls
- 5th placing Ged Wall, Logan Cartman Boys' Under 15 Double Sculls
- 6th placing Paul Kasanawaqa, Logan Cartman Boys' Under 18 Novice Double Sculls
- 7th placings Emma Stagg, Haxby Hefford, Wyatt Burrows Boys' Under 18 Double Sculls

#### South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships

The Senior College Tennis team embarked on three days of tennis in Timaru at the South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships, held from Friday 02-Sunday 04 March.

The standard of play is always high and the recent tournament was no exception, said Michael Clark, Team Manager.

Despite some long games the Ashburton team had convincing wins over Lincoln High School and Taieri College. However, after defeating Lincoln High School on Friday morning, things proved tighter in the second match on Friday against James Hargest High School, a match determined by a countback of games, which went in favour of James Hargest by 51-43.

Ashburton met defending national champions, St Andrew's College (STAC), on Sunday morning. While STAC won the match, Ashburton arguably played their best tennis and the players came off the courts proud of their efforts.

Of particular note were the games of Sam Bubb and Tyler Leonard, who took their higher ranked opponents to three sets before succumbing.

The team's narrow loss to James Hargest High School saw Ashburton College finish third overall.



(Pictured left, left to right): The team of Dallas Scott, Tyler Leonard, Sam Bubb, Jade Brosnahan, Erin Connelly-Whyte. (Insert): Maisie Looij.

#### SPACPAC Supreme Awards for College Students

Pasifika Events Co-ordinator, James Jenkinson, and Ashburton College Principal, Ross Preece, had the pleasure of taking a group of Pasifika students to the annual SPACPAC Supreme Awards Evening, held in the Catholic Cathedral College in Christchurch on Tuesday 06 March.

The event is held each year, to celebrate the achievements of the Pasifika students in the Canterbury region. Pasifika students, in leadership positions within their school, received recognition for their hard work and advocacy for promoting the Polynesian cultures within their schools.

Ashburton College's Pasifika Student Leaders who were recognised were:

- Sonia Stephens-Tahuri** Polyfest Leader/Choreographer
- Lupepe Saofai** Polyfest Leader/Choreographer
- Fotu Hala** Red House Executive Representative, Year 12 (but unable to attend evening)
- James Foaga** Polyfest Leader/Choreographer



(Pictured left): The College's group of awardees. (Back row, left to right): James Foaga, with Ross Preece (Principal) and James Jenkinson (Pasifika Events). (Front row, left to right): Richard Foaga, Sonia Stephens-Tahuri, Lupepe Saofai, Uatifoti Saofai.

#### Top Academic Achiever Awards:

As well as school leaders being recognised, the Awards Evening also celebrates the academic successes of the top academic achievers at NCEA Level 2 for 2017.

Richard Foaga and College's Deputy Head Girl Uatifoti Saofai were both recognised as Ashburton College's Top Pasifika Academic Achievers, while Uatifoti was named runner-up to the top Female Academic Achiever for the Canterbury region.

This is a very real achievement for Uati who, last year, took out the top academic award.

(Pictured right, left to right):

Ross Preece (Principal), Uatifoti Saofai, having received her runner-up award, Tony Shaw (Principal of Catholic Cathedral College), Father Paulo Filoiali (Officiating Catholic Church Minister), Ms Liz Keneti: Guest speaker - University of Canterbury - Director: Student Success)

