



Deputy Principal's Message

Welcome to the New School Year

Welcome to the beginning of the 2018 New Year and especially to all staff, students and families who have joined Ashburton College at the start of this year.

We have welcomed eight new teaching staff, along with 286 newly enrolled students – 251 of these into Year 9. The beginning of the new school year is always eventful and can sometimes appear a little chaotic. However, many staff and students have willingly given their time over the last two weeks to ensure the year gets away to a smooth and organised start. I would like to thank all those who assisted in any way.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for ensuring that, on arrival for Term 1, your sons and daughters have met the College expectations regarding uniform and appearance. It is great to see the students back, reconnecting with friends and staff, with energy and enthusiasm after the holiday break.

Student Leadership

Congratulations to all the students who have been appointed to the wide range of leadership roles for 2018. To make them more visible, and to acknowledge their role, coloured braids around their blazer are part of their recognition.

Our Head and Deputy Head Students have red braid around their blazers. A combination of red and blue stripes on the blazer sleeve indicates a member of the Student Executive team; and plain Red, Blue, Green or Orange braid for the respective Co-Captains of the College Houses.

Values, Achievements and Reporting

An important part of the new school year is also to reflect on last year's achievements and see how we, as a College, achieved and to review how we can improve this year. To work as a team with parents and caregivers, information from the school is needed so you can support your child at home.

We will continue this year with one full written report to all students – Years 11, 12 and 13 at the end of Term 3, and Year 9 and 10 at the end of Term 4.

To complement this report, staff will continue with the fortnightly reports, reflecting how well students are working towards our College Values to 'Achieve Quality' and 'Have Respect'. These reports will be published each fortnight via the Parent Portal, starting Friday 02 March.

Attendance

An issue that can slow, and sometimes stop, success is ATTENDANCE. Evidence indicates that a student is at risk of not achieving if their attendance in the classroom, at College is less than 85%.

There are 32 days left this term, 48 in Term 2, 50 in Term 3 and 13 days in Term 4. A total of 143 days left for students to be in the classroom learning before NCEA examinations start!

The message for students is to maximise their time in the classroom from Day 1, Term 1 as 07 November 2018, the first day of NCEA examinations, will be here for many, sooner than they want.



Helen Shore-Taylor
Deputy Principal

Staff - Welcome



Serrana Rugnitz
Learning Support Assistant,
ESOL Department
(English for Speakers of
Other Languages)

Information

Ashburton College Basketball

Expressions of Interest are invited for Coach positions for the 2018 Basketball season -

- Ashburton College Senior Boys' Team Basketball Coach
- Ashburton College Junior Boys' Team Basketball Coach
- Ashburton College Junior Girls' Team Basketball Coach

Please email Expressions of Interest to:
Ashburton College Basketball - via sports@ashcoll.school.nz

Peastraw for Sale – College Netball Club Fundraising

To go towards South Island Secondary Schools' Tournament costs.
Small bales - \$5.00 each **Large bales** - \$35.00 each
Orders: Phone Deborah, 027 425 7654

Information



ASHDANCE

AshDance is College's AWESOME dance showcase event.

You are invited to join us for a great night's entertainment.



- All styles of Dance – from Ballet to Hip Hop
- Class Groups, Cultural Groups, Solo Performances

Performance Night:

Wednesday 14 March, 7:00pm, College Auditorium.
Tickets: \$2.00 - available from the Student Office from 21 February.

Coming Events

February

- 24 Canterbury Junior Rowing Regatta, Lake Hood, Ashburton.
- 25 Aoraki Secondary Schools' Touch Tournament, Oamaru.
- 26 90G Ropes Course – Geraldine.
10J and 10M Social Studies visit to the Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery.
- 27 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00pm, Turret Room, Menorlue.
10V, 10W and 10X Social Studies visit to the Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery.

March

- 01 College Athletics Finals Day.
- 02-04 South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships, Timaru
- 03-04 South Island Secondary Schools' Rowing Regatta, Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel.
- 04 Postponement Day, Aoraki Secondary Schools' Touch Tournament, Oamaru
- 05 Postponement Day, South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis, Timaru
9RG Ropes Course, Geraldine
9BD Ropes Course, Geraldine
- 08 Canterbury Secondary Schools' Triathlon, Scarborough, Christchurch.
- 09 Aoraki Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships, Timaru
- 12 College Swimming Sports, EA Networks Centre, Ashburton
- 14 Ash Dance, Auditorium, Ashburton College, 7:00pm.
Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Timaru
- 16 Year 13 History Trip, Akaroa
- 19 John Parsons - Cyber Safety: all classes
- 19-20 NZSS Triathlon and Aquathlon, Rabbit Island, Nelson
- 19-25 Summer Tournament Week.

Events

Fun and Achievements at Athletics Prelims Day

In sweltering conditions last Friday, 16 February, this annual festival-style event is strongly about participation; dressing in House Colours; gaining House Points; festivity; but also qualifying for the College Athletics Finals Day to be held on Thursday 01 March.

Blue and Orange Houses competed at the Domain Oval, while Green and Red Houses competed on the College field. For every event students competed in, and made a genuine effort in, they received a House point.

Pictured are some action shots from the day:



(Pictured above, left to right): Orange House members: Alyssa Hoskin-McLaren, Olivia Joseph, Connie Davidson, Kate Tane, Annabel Spicer, Georgia Canning, Hayley Wards, Staff Leader of Orange House.

(Pictured right): In the spirit of the day, these runners are putting in the effort to gain House Points for Orange.

Event

Orientation Morning: Displays offer Exciting Opportunities

Scheduled for Wednesday 14 February, but weather-delayed until Monday of this week, an impressive forty seven displays were showcased on the Chessboard, where students were able to view, talk with the organisers and sign-up to become involved in areas of interest to them.

Displays covered sporting, cultural and recreational activities across Science Club, Army Corp Cadets, Magic, Ashburton District Youth Council, E-sports, Astronomy, Air Training Corps, twenty five different sports, Chess, SAGA Group, College Production, Debating, AshDance, Phoenix Chorus, Kapa Haka, Rakahuri Student Committee, TeenAg, Bridge, Upcycling, Student Librarians.

There are lively activities available for all students, covering all interests, and we encourage students to become involved.

Providing these opportunities for College students are countless volunteers and college staff. Sports Co-ordinator, Deborah Kell, is to be thanked for the work which she puts in to ensuring the morning happens and that there is such a wide variety of options available.

College's Three Pillars of Excellence

These are *Exceptional Learning*, *Exemplary Citizenship*, and *Exciting Opportunities*. Becoming involved in various activities is part of students growing in each of these areas.



(Pictured left): The Chessboard a-buzz with throngs of students as they prepare to investigate the various staff and activities on offer.

(Pictured below): A group of students around the Kapa Haka Stall.



(Pictured above): While other students check out the innovative Upcycling Stall.



(Pictured above): Green House participants taking a break between events.



Events

Students on PASCH Programmes and Exchanges

Scholarship Language School Course

College has, and has had, a number of students overseas and, in this edition, **Diana Barbu** and **Chrizia Cayanan** tell us about their Scholarship Language School Course in Frankfurt, over three weeks in the January holiday break. Essentially, Diana and Chrizia exchanged their summer holiday period for winter and school work, plus the added bonus of various activities and meeting new people.

As Ashburton College is a PASCH Partnership School, annually there are two places on offer for College students who are entering Year 13. Diana and Chrizia said there were sixty one students on the course in total, from nine different countries, mostly Australia, Indonesia and South America. They said the PASCH Scholarship was 'amazing' in that it covered all costs including flights, food, trams and activities, plus a spending money allowance.

In Frankfurt

Accommodation was in a Youth Hostel, while the course was based around intensive German language immersion, within school-like hours of 9:00am-3:00pm. The students were placed into four different classes based on their level of German language abilities and experience.

Evenings brought the opportunity for a range of activities, as a group, including ice skating, bowling, laser tag, museum visits, attendance at a major football game and at a hockey game, and day trips to other towns in the Frankfurt region. The first weekend this was to Marburg to the north of Frankfurt, where they undertook a city tour. Described by Diana and Chrizia as a 'perfect day which snowed the whole time', their second weekend was amidst castle ruins in the mountains. For some in the group this was their first experience of snow.



(Pictured right): The whole group after watching the football game in Frankfurt.



(Pictured right, left and right): Chrizia and Diana, in the old part of the city with traditional buildings.

(Pictured left): The day it snowed, wearing about six layers, yet having 'the best time ever'.



(Pictured right): at the top of Main Tower, a 56 storey, 200m sky scraper in the Innenstadt District of Frankfurt.

Proficiency Exam

While on the Course students are offered the chance to sit the International Language Proficiency exam, in German. This qualification is recognised world-wide and, for anyone looking for residency in Germany a B1 certification is required.

Through College both students held their A1 certification before attending this Course. The qualifications run sequentially from A1-A2, through B1-B2, to C1-C2. Both Diana and Chrizia were able to pass on the A2 qualification and sit the B1 exam, with both successful in gaining a pass. They said, being able to undertake the exam on-site at the Course was a real bonus, due to both being able to sit it on-site and the cost being covered by the course sponsorship. If they undertook it in New Zealand they would have had to fly to Wellington.

Advice to other students

Diana's advice to other students considering applying for the course, is to 'definitely do it'. She said that a number of students didn't apply last year because they thought their German wasn't good enough, but interviews and selection are not only about the language and, while the course is about language learning, she saw that as important as experiencing a new culture and making new friends.

For Diana, this was her third trip to Germany, previously having been with the College Tour Group in 2016, followed by a three month exchange beginning in December 2016. She said each trip was completely different and valuable, but this was her 'hands-down favourite' made more so by the people taking the course. In their 20s-30s they were easy to talk with, understood the group's needs, and were 'so cool'.

Chrizia endorsed this view saying it was 'definitely worth it'. She said she didn't expect it to be so much fun and that the benefits were greater than only learning German. Important were the connections with other people, even where they didn't speak the same language.

Both students' advice included that it can be 'scary' or over-whelming going overseas for the first time but students thinking of applying shouldn't be put off by that thought. Once on the Course there was company, plenty to do and no time to feel homesick, and the best aspect was meeting people and making friends.

(Pictured below): The Kiwi contingent plus some from other countries doing the Haka outside Römer.



(Pictured below): The whole group inside Römer (like a City Hall) with the group Leaders, and a spokesperson from Goethe Institut and representatives of the City Hall.



Congratulations

Matt Clough Earns Outstanding Result

The annual Coast to Coast race is an event on the bucket list of many New Zealanders and is famous throughout the world for its fantastic scenery and multisport challenge. The race is run as either a one or two-day event, with competitors making the 243km journey across the South Island from the West Coast beach at Kumara to the East Coast beach at New Brighton, Christchurch.

Year 13 student and multisport athlete, Matthew Clough, took part in the Coast to Coast race at the Coast to Coast last year, and set a goal to compete in the two-day event this year. Whilst Matthew is no stranger to cycling and mountain running, kayaking was a new skill for him to learn prior to race day.

Day 1

The race began at 7:00am on Friday morning with athletes running 2.2km from the beach at Kumara to the first transition. Matthew led the pack into transition, and was quickly off on his bike for the 55km cycle into Aickens Corner.

During the cycle, a lead group of five cyclists broke away and Matthew led the chasing bunch into transition for the mountain run.

A slick transition at Aickens Corner saw Matt ditch his bike and don his running gear to head out on the 30.5km mountain run. This spectacular run takes athletes over Goat Pass and finishes at Klondyke Corner. Given the athletes have to cross a high mountain pass where conditions can change within minutes, they need to carry a pack with food, water and compulsory gear such as thermal tops and pants, hats and gloves. There is a check point at the top of the pass where athletes are asked to show officials three items of compulsory gear, selected at random by officials. At the end of the mountain run, Matthew was leading the schools' section by 28 minutes and was in 3rd place overall.

The mountain run signalled the end of Day 1. Matthew then had to eat, drink and rest in preparation for Day 2.

Day 2

Started at 7:30am with a 15km cycle from Klondyke Corner to the top of the hill by Mt White Bridge. The transition is 1.3km down a gravel road and across the bridge so athletes have to run, carrying their road bikes to the transition.

From the bridge, athletes don their kayak gear and kayak 70km to Goerge Bridge. For Matthew, this was the greatest challenge of the race given he had only been kayaking a short time. However, this turned out to be a strength and it was on this section that Matthew surged into second place, finishing with the 7th fastest kayak time of all individual competitors.

Matthew emerged from the kayak in first equal place and transitioned onto the final cycle leg, 69.5km into Christchurch.

The final cycle was very hard, given the distance already covered and the notorious easterly wind was unforgiving. However, Matthew fought hard to the end.

The final stage of the race was a 150m sprint along the sand and up the hill to the finish. Matthew used his triathlon skills well and dismounted his bike at speed to surge to the front of the race.

Final Placings

Matthew was the first individual competitor across the finish line in Christchurch to take line honours on Day 2. However, his combined time over the two days put him in second place overall, by less than 3 minutes. He was well ahead in the schools' section, winning by almost an hour.

In all, the 243km journey from Coast to Coast took Matthew 12 hours 24 minutes and 16 seconds.

Matthew is keen to try the one day event at some stage but certainly not next year. He already has other goals in his sights and will compete in the national XTERRA championships in Rotorua in April before heading to the World Multisport Championships in Denmark in July.

Secondary Schools' Team

For next year's Coast to Coast, Matthew is hoping to mentor a team in the schools' section. Interested runners, cyclists and kayakers are invited to talk to Matthew for further details.



(Pictured left and below): Matt on the bike, running over Goat Pass and in the kayak, in what was an exceptional set of results for this seventeen year old, Year 13 student.

Honours for Senior Mixed Tennis Team

Ashburton College fielded three teams at the annual Aoraki Senior Tennis Championships, held in Timaru on Tuesday 13 February.

The Boys' Division saw Ashburton place second, after comfortable victories over Waitaki Boys' High School and Mackenzie College. Timaru Boys' High School, however, proved to be a tough draw and showed their class with a straight sets win over Ashburton.

Girls' Team: Runners-up

A countback on games saw the Ashburton Girls' Team take a narrow win over Craighead Girls' High School. In another head-to-head, the Girls' Team also took out a 4-2 win over Geraldine High School. A long day and hot weather meant things proved a little tougher in the last match of the day against Waitaki Girls' High School, who took the title with a 4-2 win.

Mixed Team: Winners

Congratulations go to the Mixed Team who were untroubled in their three matches for the day, and their run to the title in their division.

The team will now head to the South Island Secondary Schools' Championships to be held in Timaru over the weekend of 02-04 March.



(Pictured left, left to right): The winning mixed team – Erin Connelly-Whyte, Sam Bubbe, Tyler Leonard, Jade Brosnahan.

