



### Deputy Principal's Message

#### Welcome

Welcome to the beginning of the 2019 year and especially to all staff, students and families who joined Ashburton College at the start of this year.

Ten new teaching staff and four Learning Support Assistants joined us, along with 318 students enrolled – 272 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 five weeks to ensure the year gets away to a smooth and organised start. I would like to thank all those who assisted.

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

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to all the students who have been appointed to the wide range of leadership roles for 2019. To make them more visible and acknowledge their role, coloured braids around the blazer are part of their recognition. The 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, while plain red, blue, green or orange braid represents the respective Captains of the College Houses.

#### History Informs the Future

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

#### Reporting Starts 14 March

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 Years 9 and 10 at the end of Term 4. To complement this report, staff will continue with the fortnightly report, reflecting on how well students are working towards our College Values of 'Achieve Quality' and 'Have Respect'. These will be published each fortnight via the Parent Portal, starting Friday 14 March.

#### Attendance

An issue that can slow and sometimes stop success is NON-ATTENDANCE. Evidence indicates that a student is at risk of not achieving if their attendance in the classroom is less than 85%. There are 31 days left this term, 48 in Term 2, 49 in Term 3 and 13 days in Term 4. This is a total of 141 days left for senior students to be in the classroom learning before NCEA examinations start!

The message, especially for senior students, is to maximise their time in the classroom from Day 1, Term 1, as 07 November 2019 – the first day of NCEA examinations – will be here for many, sooner than they want.



Helen Shore-Taylor  
Deputy Principal

### Staff welcome



Rebecca Jeffery-Jones  
Teacher of English and  
Video Conferencing,  
Classical Studies.

### Information

#### Community Meetings

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 families' meeting, or the one below.

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

- Filipino community Monday 11 March (note change of date)

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.

### Information

#### Cyber Safety Presentation – Internet Health and Well-being Open to all Schools' Families and Community Members

Ashburton College Auditorium  
Monday 04 March: 7:00pm-8:30pm.  
There is no admission charge.

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



This presentation is available to you,  
hosted by **John Parsons**  
New Zealand's leading authority on  
safeguarding children online.

The presentation raises awareness of the dangers associated with the  
inappropriate use of Digital Communication Technology,  
and offers solutions to reduce risk.

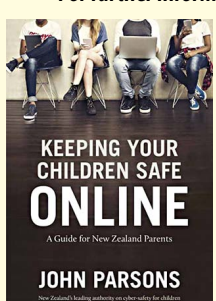
**Topics covered are:** on-line grooming, sexting, damaged reputations,  
cyber-bullying, reputation management, learning to repel and report,  
future-proofing for employment.

**Step 1:** educating young people to understand the value of identity  
is the first step to using ICT safely and ethically.

**Step 2:** educating young people to respect and protect friends'  
and family identity is the second step.

All College students will attend sessions through the school day,  
also on 04 March, and staff after school.


For further information, go to the website: [www.s2e.co.nz](http://www.s2e.co.nz)





The book will be available  
for purchase during the sessions.

John Parsons





## 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:

- Tuesday 05 March - 9N
- Wednesday 06 March - 9P
- Thursday 07 March - 9V
- Monday 11 March - 9W
- Tuesday 12 March - 9X
- Wednesday 20 March - 9Y

#### Term Dates 2019

<b>Term One</b>	Monday 29 April	- Friday 12 April
<b>Term Two</b>	Teacher Only Day	- Friday 05 July
	Queen's Birthday holiday	- Friday 31 May
	Monday 22 July	- Monday 03 June
<b>Term Three</b>	Mid-term break	- Friday 27 September
		- Friday 30 August
<b>Term Four</b>	Monday 14 October	- Thursday 31 October (Year 13)
		- Monday 04 November (Year 12)
		- Tuesday 05 November (Year 11)
		- Thursday 12 December (Year 10)
		- Friday 13 December (Year 9)



### Events

#### Orientation Morning: Displays offer Exciting Opportunities for Students

Held on Wednesday 20 February an impressive forty seven displays were showcased on the Chessboard, where students were able to view, talk with the organisers and sign-up to be involved in areas of interest to them.

Activities cover sporting, cultural and recreational activities across, to name some - Badminton, Akido, Student Librarians, eSports, Golf Croquet, Ashburton District Youth Council, SAGA Group, Productions, Phoenix Rising and Phoenix Chorus, Science Club, TeenAg, Cadets, Mountain Biking, Debating, Air Pistol Shooting, Smallbore Rifle Shooting, Astronomy and another twenty nine options.

There are literally activities available for all at College and all interests, and we encourage students to become involved.

Providing these opportunities for College students are countless volunteers and College staff. Sports Co-ordinator Darion Gray 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 above): The Chessboard a-buzz with throngs of students as they prepare to investigate the various activities on offer.

(Pictured below): Sensei Thorsten Windhorst of the Jion International Karate Dojo Ashburton, talks with (left to right): Tau Daniel, Salatielu Iakopo, Toetu Touli and Max Nichol.



### Coming Events

- March**
- 01** NZSS TSNZ Shooting Challenge.
- Aoraki Secondary Schools' Lawn Bowls Championships, Timaru.
- Athletics Finals, postponement day.
- 02** Postponement day, Aoraki Secondary Schools' Touch Tournament.
- 02-03** South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Cup, Timaru.
- 03** Canterbury Japan Day, Riccarton Event Park, Christchurch.
- South Island Secondary Schools' Triathlon and Duathlon Championships, Oamaru.
- 04** Cyber Safety presentation by John Parsons, Internet Safety and Risk Assessment Consultant - all year levels, during the day.
- Evening presentation for families and the public, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Auditorium.
- 05** 9N Ropes Course.
- Pasifika Supreme Awards, Christchurch Boys' High School.
- 06** Lincoln University liaison visit.
- 9P Ropes Course, Geraldine High School.
- 07** 9V Ropes Course, Geraldine High School.
- 08** Canterbury Secondary Schools' Triathlon, Sumner, Christchurch
- 08-10** ISS Rowing Championships, Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel.

### Congratulations

#### Bronze Medal for Isabella Roulston at Track Cycling Championships

Riding for the Canterbury Team at the Premier Vantage Elite and Under 19 Track Cycling National Championships from 7-10 February, Isabella (pictured right) claimed a Bronze Medal in the Under 19 Women's Sprint

This is a timed event, with times in the heats ranking riders to go through to the quarter and semi-finals. Isabella's heat time of 12.902 was also, satisfyingly, a Personal Best. In the heats, riders are timed individually, before entering the quarter, semi finals and final, where they race one versus one.

Her second-best result was a 6th placing in the Kierin, while she reported that she finished mid-field in the 500m Time Trial and the 7km Scratch Race. This event heralds the end of the track season for her and a change to training which will now be all on the road, as Isabella put it – lots of hours by herself. Her training usually consists of gym work in the morning and riding in the afternoon, for 10-15 hours a week.

Pre-nationals the regime included travelling to Christchurch four times a week for training and racing.



(Pictured above): Isabella ready to start the Kierin event.

#### College Winners at the Aoraki Tennis Championships

A warm day in Timaru greeted competitors on Thursday 14 February, for the 2019 Aoraki Tennis Championships, at which a change in format saw Ashburton College enter a Mixed Team in the Open Division and a Boys' Team and a Girls' Team in their respective divisions.

#### Results were -

Convincing winners were the Mixed Team of Jade Brosnahan, Maisie Looij, Tyler Leonard, Matthew Hopkins, taking out the ties against St Kevin's and Roncalli Colleges.

Also winning their Cup Division was the Boys' Team of Josh Jones, Ollie Bubb, Henrik Tawatao, gained by beating both teams from Geraldine.

The Girls' Team, coach Michael Clark said, had a tougher time with some stiff competition from Waitaki Girls' High School and Craighead Diocesan School proving to be too strong. Team members were Gemma Taylor and Ila Cabale.

The Aoraki Championships are a qualifying tournament for the South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships, for which College has entered the Mixed Team and is currently awaiting confirmation of entry. The system has moved this year to one of application, and subsequent confirmation or otherwise.



(Pictured above): The College teams -  
(Back row, left to right): Josh Jones, Jade Brosnahan, Maisie Looij, Matthew Hopkins, Tyler Leonard.

(Front row, left to right): Gemma Taylor, Henrik Tawatao, Ollie Bubb, Ila Cabale.

### Events

#### Overseas Experiences for Students

A number of College students have recently returned from overseas experiences of varying lengths and, in following newsletters, we will look at what these students gained and enjoyed while away.

#### Leanne Walsh Returns from Austria

Through the company Your Education, who talked with students last year at Ashburton College, Leanne visited and stayed in upper Austria, near the city of Linz. Leaving New Zealand on 08 December Leanne was into schooling during her summer holiday break which, of course, became a winter experience.

Application for this experience was by way of interview with the Canterbury Area Representative, from Christchurch, plus the customary form-filling including a summary of why Leanne was seeking this experience.

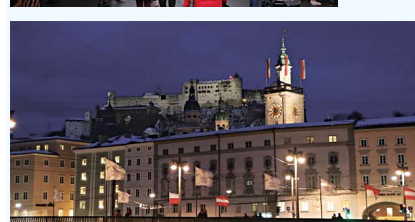
Leanne said she had some travel experience, having been in Europe about three years ago, and Australia on occasions with family.

While in Austria she lived in the town of Altenfelden, a small town very similar to Hinds where she hails from. There she lived with host parents and a host sister. She also had a host brother but he was generally away in Vienna. School was in Linz, approximately 40km away by bus.

Leanne said the experience was 'cool' – literally and figuratively, and her host family 'really awesome' and supportive. While there, she had trips to Vienna, Salzburg and Hallstatt, mostly exploring the area and 'quite often' trying the cuisine. She said that Hallstatt was a very scenic place, and very old.



(Pictured left): Visiting a large Christmas Market in front of Austria's Parliament Building on Christmas Eve.



(Pictured left): Night photo in the Salzburg Old Town and the 'Hohensalzburgfestung' (The high Salzburg fortress).

(Pictured below): Leanne standing in front of the 'Hallstaetter See' (the Hallstatt lake) and the alpine village of Hallstatt.



There were some key differences between life in Austria and that which she has in New Zealand, with food being one major variation. Austria has very few takeaway venues and only four KFC outlets in the whole country. Families eat a lot of home-made food, a lot of soup and appear to have an overall healthier diet, although there were plenty of desserts and pastries which were more prevalent than in New Zealand. Leanne suggested she was going to try and keep up with food similar to what she ate in Austria.

Schooling was another area of difference, being 'completely different'. Instead of NCEA, students study for Matura and must compulsorily stay in schooling until they are nineteen years of age. The length of the school day changes daily, for example, at the school Leanne was at students finished around 3:30pm on a Monday, whereas Tuesday and Wednesday was around 1:30pm; Thursday and Friday around 12 noon and just prior to. The day started earlier than here, at 8:00am. Students still moved from subject to subject, had slightly shorter teaching periods than here (50-55 minutes), had shorter breaks overall, but had five minute breaks between subjects. A school of about 200 students, it was quite a sports-focused school, with sports classes held at the end of each day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Leanne noted students didn't appear to have part-time jobs. She found people very welcoming, friendly and curious about New Zealand and, at one stage, Leanne gave a presentation about New Zealand to students and their teacher.

Leanne found the language difference a bit challenging to start with and said she started reading Mangas, a Japanese comic book written in German! German was the key language, with challenges around different dialects. Students were quite good English speakers, making conversation reasonably straightforward.

Leanne's wise advice to other students considering such an opportunity is to 'do it' if they feel they can both raise the necessary money, as this option is a self-funded opportunity, and if the concept appeals to them.