



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 10
20 April 2023

News

Head of Junior School

First Term at AshColl

My first term at AshColl has been an exciting one. Getting to know the junior students and supporting them to settle back into school life has been the bulk of our work in the Junior Pastoral Team.

Year 9 Dean Guy Smith, and Assistant Head of Junior School Anna Rimmer, have worked hard to support the new students transitioning to our school; and our Year 10 Deans, Sue Johnstone and James List, have picked up where they left off last year, supporting our Year 10 students to be the best versions of themselves here at school.

AshColl Way – Student Reflections

A big focus of mine, in this first term, has been to establish the AshColl Way as a major focus for our junior students.

The students have been engaging in weekly reflection tasks and weekly goal-setting to help them identify how they are currently meeting the AshColl Way expectations and how they can continue to improve as the weeks go on. This was supported by our Ako Interviews, which were a great success.

Students created slideshows that showed in detail what they were doing well in each class, and how they could improve as the year went along. I have been really impressed with the students' abilities to be reflective about their learning and to identify the ways that they can take responsibility for their time at school.

Junior Assemblies

Another big part of our Ako time programme has been our junior assemblies. As a new staff member, these have been a time for me to share with students my three main values about school.

- Firstly, I want to have high expectations for student success.
- Secondly, I want our students and staff to build positive relationships with each other to support those high expectations.
- Thirdly, I want students to enjoy coming to school and to have fun while they are here.

To build these relationships and to promote enjoyment at school, we have been regularly competing for the coveted Ako Class Trophy and celebrating students who have achieved a large number of Mihi Pai awards throughout the term.

To Conclude

To finish this term, I have two messages –

- The first is to the Ashburton Community: thank you for welcoming me, both to the school and the region. I have already met many great people and I look forward to strengthening these relationships as we move forward.
- Secondly, was to the students of the junior school - to enjoy your holidays and when you return, continue your commitment to upholding and demonstrating the AshColl Way in all aspects of school life.



John Cook
Head of Junior School

Staff – Farewells

Kendra Maw

Kendra has been connected with Ashburton College since first arriving as a Beginning Teacher at the start of Term Three 2008, in a relieving position as a teacher of Health and Physical Education. This was a subject she was passionate about, believing in the holistic development of students. Kendra's other specialist subject was English and, by the start of Term Four 2008, she was appointed to a permanent position encompassing Physical Education and English, which morphed into English teaching for the bulk of her time at College.

From the start of 2009 Kendra was immersed in the English Faculty where she was to remain, aside from leave to travel overseas in 2013, and parental leave across 2018 to January 2021, albeit interspersed with relief teaching and a part-time, fixed-term role from July to October 2021 supporting a senior Māori class.

With regret we received Kendra's resignation from College and the English Faculty, in March of this year.

Kendra is described as having quickly adapted to the changeover from Phys Ed to English teaching where she made an indelible mark on her colleagues and students alike. A consummate professional, with the continuing aim of teaching effectively and maintaining consistently high teaching standards, Kendra's classroom management practice had students feeling comfortable, supported and also challenged with their learning.

Kendra's collegial contributions to staff professional development were always welcome and valuable, particularly with her insights gained through her own reflective practice. As well, Kendra was a stalwart of various aspects of staff culture, including helping organise many Lip Sync performances, as well as being a key figure on the staff social netball team.

Kendra was the Staff Blue House Leader for three years, including taking them to victory within this time; a Year 12 Dean over 2016-2017; Coach of the Year 9 Netball team; and a member of the Staff Social Committee.

On the academic side, Kendra was involved in the College's ATOL (Assess to Learn) project, which focused on learning intentions, feedback, peer and self-evaluation plus teacher reflection. A progressive teacher from the outset, she was also involved in staff-wide Professional Development of the Purposeful Lesson.

Kendra was a strong motivator of students, understanding them well and developing good relationships. She made regular and valuable contact with families, worked co-operatively with colleagues and kept in contact with them.

Staff – Farewells

While Kendra's resignation is met with regret, she will still be a familiar face at College as she continues to work as a cover teacher while balancing the busy demands of being a partner, and mother to three young children, as well as working her way through her ever-expanding library!

We gratefully thank Kendra, with sincere appreciation, for all she has offered to students and staff and wish her well for future endeavours, plus looking forward to seeing her in College from time to time.

Olivia McLennan

Olivia (Liv) has been a Learning Support Assistant at College since early March 2022. During 2022 her role was in Te Whare Manaaki while, this year, her Learning Support Assistant role has been in the Mainstream.

Liv is described as having effortlessly joined the Mainstream Learning Support Department, quickly becoming an invaluable member of the team.

Of an easy-going personality, she built up an excellent rapport with the students she was helping; and with the teachers she worked alongside.

College is sad to lose her, and her skills, but is happy to know that she is still working in the Ashburton Learning Support Community assisting younger students.

Liv will be missed, and we thank her for her contributions to students and staff at College, while wishing her all the best for her future endeavours.

Information

College Closed for Instruction for ACCORD Teacher Only Day

Next Monday, 24 April

ACCORD Teacher Only Days are Ministry of Education nation-wide granted days allocated to support the implementation of forthcoming changes to NCEA.

There is just the one day allocated for 2023.

College is using this day on Monday 24 April.

Therefore, there is no school for students on this day.

We thank you for your co-operation and support.

Please note that the next day, Tuesday 25 April, is ANZAC Day (a public holiday).

Term Two, for students, therefore, starts on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

Events

AshColl Trades Transition Class Fence Project

The AshColl Trades Transition class has been busy during Term One on a fence project, earning themselves NCEA credits and Unit Standard qualifications from the Building and Construction ITO (Industry Training Organisation). At the same time as this fence was being erected, the class was also gaining qualifications in Worksite Safety and First Aid.



(Pictured left): Commencing the first stages of the fence building, on site at College.

(Pictured below): The impressive finished product, enclosing an area outside of the Technology Block.

(Front row, left to right): Mason Bland, Donnie Ross, Taj O'Carroll, Keanu Smith, Levi Browne, Jacob Argyle, Tom Patterson, Arras Jamison.

(On fence, left and right): Daniel Wells, Zac Douglas.

(Absent): Lukas Fowler, Brandon Marshall, Tyler Rattray, Emmett Rowlands, John Dalton.



Teacher-in-Charge of Automotive and Trades Patrick Neal said that, with these qualifications and each student now having their own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), they will soon be going on work experience at various companies in Ashburton, with the view to leaving school and earning a trade.

Their next project is outdoor seating, with the Ashburton District Council and Hakatere Marae as clients. These seats will have galvanised steel frames and use timber milled from Ashburton Domain trees that were brought down by the strong winds last year. The Ashburton Council has allowed us to use this timber in exchange for two bench seats near their Flying Fox. Seats at the Hakatere Marae will be installed in front of their Whare for outdoor events.

Events

Students are also enrolled in other Technology classes that they enjoy: such as Automotive, Building or Mechanical Engineering. Here they learn specialised skills within trades they are interested in. When the students come to the Trades Class, they share these skills with their team, each contributing and having an opportunity to lead on the project.

Next term the class is also looking forward to two days of welding tuition at Ara and working towards gaining an Engineering ITO Welding Unit Standard.

Patrick said that some of the students want to be builders, mechanics, electricians, plumbers, drainlayers, bricklayers and fabricator-welders; and that College is always keen for local businesses to come forward with opportunities for our students to try their industry. Existing community relationships are valued and appreciated, as would future connections be.

Canterbury Polyfest 2023

Canterbury Polyfest is a representation of Pasifika traditional dance, music and custom, featuring secondary school students from around the Canterbury and Southern region.

Inaugurated in the year 2000, it is the most recognised Pacific Festival in the South Island. This was held this year on 18 March, at the Special Events Area, North Hagley Park, Christchurch. The day was filled with performances from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

Twenty-six schools performed, being Avonside Girls', Burnside, Cashmere, Christchurch Girls', Christchurch Boys', Hillmorton, Hornby, Kaiapoi, Papanui, Riccarton, Shirley Boys' and Timaru Boys' High Schools; plus Ashburton Catholic Cathedral, Hagley Community, Marlborough Boys', Marlborough Girls', Marian, Rolleston, St Andrew's, St Bede's, St Thomas of Canterbury, Te Aratai and Villa Maria Colleges; and Middleton Grange School and Haeta Community Campus.

Canterbury Polyfest provides the opportunity for our secondary school students from across the Canterbury region to celebrate and showcase their Pasifika culture, language and identity through song and dance to reflect the diverse Pasifika communities residing in Aotearoa New Zealand.

College Deputy Principal Hannibal Ikahihifo tells us that, for over six weeks, approximately 90 of our students used their lunchtimes and at least two hours after school each school day to create, refine and perform three cultural dance pieces. The time, commitment and effort students put into their preparation, with very little input from adults, was impressive and indicated how rich and valuable this learning experience is for our ākonga/ students.

This rich and authentic learning experience was led by our senior students. Each of the leaders led traditional dance and songs from Tongan, Samoan and Cook Island cultures.

Ashburton College's Polyfest group is comprised of Year 9 to 13 students and we are fortunate at Ashburton College to have students who are able to tap into their cultural knowledge to create dance pieces that represent who they are and where they come from.

At Polyfest, we had close to 100 students performing as we also combined with students from Mount Hutt College. It was great to have our two schools acknowledged at this important event, and to be part of an event which hasn't been able to take place since 2020.



(Pictured above): Samoan performers (left to right): Sama Soialo, June Tilialo, Roaness Dereb Futa Sale, Emma Matau, Dave Pio, Savana Fagalima, Deputy Principal Hannibal Ikahihifo, Cecilia Vaaleua, Principal Ross Preece, May Penjueli, Janice Milo, Ripena Umagea Vaela, Sarai Faalavai, Meliame Longi, Edema Kelsall.



(Pictured above): The majority of the Tongan performers and group leaders, including a number of Year 13 students for whom this is their final Polyfest. (Left to right): Stephen Palavi, Tipeti Afu (Leaders and Year 12 students), Siasini Satui (Year 12 student), Mia Manoa (Leader and Year 13 student), Cecilia Vaelua (Samoan Leader and Year 13 student), River Fuluasou (Year 12 student), Sera Ula (Leader, Year 13 student), Lani Fifta and Iraia Langi (Year 13 students). (Front): Gabriel Fifta (Year 10 student).



(Pictured left): Showing part of the College performance with Mia Manoa and Iraia Langi (at front, left and right).



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Congratulations

Academic Blues Assemblies

Year 12 and Year 13 separate assemblies to acknowledge student 2022 academic achievements were held on Thursday 06 April, in the College Auditorium.

Due to variable weather these were transferred indoors, and held as separate assemblies, rather than a whole-College assembly on the Chessboard.

College is proud of the academic achievements of our students and values this opportunity to acknowledge their successes, based on 2022 academic results.

Principal Ross Preece welcomed visitors, students and staff to the occasion and acknowledged the hard work and diligence of students, families and staff, which brings about positive results. These were again particularly pleasing in a year acknowledged as challenging, due to the various interruptions.

Three categories were celebrated –

Academic Performance Award

To receive a Performance Award Certificate, a student achieved a Merit Endorsed NCEA Level 1 or Level 2.

Academic Blues Award

To receive a Blues Award Badge a student achieved an Excellence Endorsed NCEA Level 1 or Level 2. They receive an Academic Blues Certificate and a Blues Badge.

Top Scholar

The top scholar is the student who achieved the greatest number of Excellence Credits in the Level 1 or 2 2022 NCEA results. Top Scholars also receive a Top Scholar Certificate and a Colours Badge.

Awards presented were –

Level 1

Academic Performance Award Recipients

Taymah Aiken-Wheeler	Kaiya Amorante	Mere Apaipo
Enmori Balenaisa	Honor Bradford	Lily Briggs
Latham Brown	Lacey Campbell	Ella Clark-Powell
Isla Connelly-Whyte	Sir Aron Da-al	Hector Diamante
Hannah Digby	Zac Douglas	Tate Dryland
Maafala Faamausili	Holly-Jayne Feutz	Leigha Fletcher
Meg Ford	River Fuluasou	Jasmine Galos
Ashley Gee	Sophie Gibson	Ellie Glenn
Mia Graham	Bree Greer	Poppy Jemmett
Samantha Lagapa	Larrein Lumatac	Lucy Marshall
Elyse McCallum	Jordy McGillen	Liberty Mendez
Talitha Nel	Daniel Nicoloiu	Kingsley Olawale
Lorraine Paterson	Keisha Power	Emily Rouse
Sienna Skilling	Gabby Smith	Sai Sukumar
Liam Taylor	Hannah Tindall	Pippo Trinidad
Ripena Umaga Vaela	Isla Watt	Emma Williams



(Pictured above): Level 1 Performance Award recipients.

Academic Blues Award Recipients

Finn Brown	Tamsin Cartney	Zoe Cribb
E-J Elliott	Genevieve Felton	Olivia Fox
Izzy Harris	Luke Hay	Rachel Hoekstra
Lorraine Huy	Iela Mangubat	Darcy McCully
Jesse Nieman	Patrizio Novello	Ella Rickard
Ruby Robinson	Mahalia Scarlett	Emily Simons
Leah Thomas	Madi Tourle	Rose Vannini



(Pictured above): Level 1 Blues Award recipients.

Level 1 Top Scholar
Olivia Fox



Level 2

Academic Performance Award Recipients

Kaimana Acidera	Mia Chambers	Andreea Ciora
Kyle Dickson	Anna Ford	
Simone Forster Lobato de Faria	Alyssa Gilbert	Jessica Hayman
Oliver Hobbs	Ruby Leverton	Emma Lill
Braden Luxton	Molly McKenna	Charlotte McKenzie
Sean McQuillan	Hayley McQuillan-Ross	
Laura Mihailescu Bodgan	Erin Murray	Cedrick Orena
Sam Orr	Hershel Ranay	Chloe Rutledge
Harmony Shea	Lara Shierlaw	Arlina Smith
Jack Templeton	Jess Thomas	Luis Varias
Joelle Watson	Lily Williams	Alexia Wilson
Sarah Wilson	Laura Winchester	



(Pictured above): Level 2 Performance Award recipients.

Academic Blues Award Recipients

Ollie Bubb	Gianna Butler	Laura Cameron
Angela Ciora	Amelia Harris	Laura Jensen
Maria Lawn	Seb McMillan	Lyn Militante
Mao Nishioka	Olivia Pearce	Isabel Wall



(Pictured above): Level 2 Blues Award recipients.

Level 2 Top Scholar
Amelia Harris



Festival of the Spoken Word 2023

After a disrupted couple of years to the College cultural calendar, the 26th Festival of The Spoken Word made a welcome reappearance to close out Term One, being held on Tuesday 04 April.

Organiser Michael Clark said that the main programme heavily featured humorous sketches and monologues, much to the amusement of the audience.

Humorous Monologues – Junior and Senior Students

A top junior prize was awarded to Isabel Wang whose original piece had the audience in fits of laughter with her inner monologue detailing the times when we find ourselves in an 'Awkward Conversation'.

Impeccable timing and comic delivery saw Callum Tait share a Joint First Place with Isabel in the Humorous Monologue category, with 'Apprentice Dentist'.

Serious Readings/Monologues – Senior Students

Maddie Page took out top honours in the Serious Monologue with her original piece titled 'Ships in the Harbour', while Harvey Apolonio earned a Highly Commended for his original pieces 'Dawn and Repose/Inverted Dreamscape'.

Humorous Sketches – Senior Students

The hotly-contested Humorous Sketch section saw Charlotte Bell and Jack Halford claim first Place for the 'Conversation Piece', with second place going to Laura Winchester, Sarah Wilson, Maddy Soal, Georgia Poole, Alia Forrester and Jack Templeton for 'Disney Housewives'.

Third place went to Max Lambert-Lane and Cedrick Orena for their original piece, 'Untrue Love'.

(Pictured left): Top Junior Performer of the Evening, Isabel Wang, with her original piece 'Awkward Conversations'.



(Pictured right, left and right): Callum Tait performs 'The Apprentice Dentist' with support from Eddie Galbraith.



(Pictured left, left and right): Charlotte Bell and Jack Halford perform the humorous sketch, 'Conversation Piece'.

House Fest

As always, the House Fest pieces were works of excellence and had the audience laughing along with everything, from Blue House's David Attenborough documentary-style take on some of the people from College in 'AshColl Jungle'; to Green House's spin on 'Love Island AshColl'.

Red House put forward their views on the 'The Phone Policy' while eventual House Fest winners, Orange House combined the AshColl Values into a Family Feud-like game show, 'House of Hell'.

Following the reality show genre, The Student Executive also delivered a humorous take on 'Married at First Sight', AshColl edition.

(Pictured right):

Blue House performing their House piece with their take on a David Attenborough documentary, 'AshColl Jungle'.



Opening and Closing Karakia and Waiata

As he opened the evening with a karakia, so too did Kaiwhaiki Peetitumango close with one before he and Zeahn Otene lead the waiata.

Particular thanks for the evening go to:

MCs
Maria Lawn (Student Arts Committee Head) and Sifala Sagaga (Board of Trustees Student Representative)

Main Programme Judge
House Fest Judge
Stage Manager
Technical Manager
Lights
Sound
Backstage
Mics
Lighting Apprentices
Door:



(Pictured left, left and right): Kasey Higson and Molly McKenna with their take on Catherine Tate's humorous sketch, 'Periodic Table of Elements'.

Our appreciation goes also to Haide of English Faculty Michael Clark for his long-time organisation of this traditional, annual event on the College calendar.

Proceeds from the evening go towards supporting the invaluable Ashburton College Reading Mentors' programme.

Coming Events

April 07-23	Term Break holidays, including Easter Monday Refer below – no school 24 and 25 April.
24	Teacher Only Day – College not open for instruction
25	ANZAC DAY – public holiday
26	Term 2 starts for students