



Message From The Principal

Farewell to Year 13 Students

Tonight, from 7:30pm, we farewell our Year 13 graduates at their ceremony at the Ashburton Event Centre. This is the end of a five-year journey for these students, progressing and maturing as they have moved through Ashburton College.

As a year group these students are actually unique in a very unusual way. They are the only year group who have experienced a secondary school year free from disruption, and who can claim to have enjoyed a 'normal school year'.

As Year 9 students they enjoyed a year free from any major disruption. The subsequent years have had major disruptions to normal school life due to Covid, floods and industrial action.

The Year 13 Graduation Ceremony is well-attended. It is always satisfying for both parents and staff to reflect that 'our' finished product is well on their way to being a productive member of society. As adults we appreciate the challenges that puberty, social media, friendship groups and 'testing the limits' provide for our young people. But the combination of these challenges often help to mould our teenagers into who they will become.

For those leaving AshColl for the final time we, of course, wish you well. Be excited about your future and remember that you will decide upon that future in time.

Combined Year 11/12 Prize-giving

The following week, on Tuesday 31 October, we have our combined Year 11 and 12 Prize-giving, again in the Event Centre, and this starts at 7:00pm.

Because we have created a combined event, we have actually 'raised the bar' in terms of what is required to be acknowledged. If your child receives an award at this event you can feel justifiably proud.

The undoubted highlight of this event is the naming of our Head and Deputy Head students for 2024. Again, a great honour, if your child was one of the eight students chosen for an interview.

NCEA Exams

On Monday 06 November our NCEA exams start and, because there are no 'Covid Credits' on offer this year, there are many students who may be feeling increased pressure. Anything you can do to support your child over the exam period will be greatly appreciated.

Once again, our staff are offering extra tuition in the Library to help with exam preparation. My thanks to all our staff who give of their time.

Change of Government

Now that the election is over, every school will be anxiously awaiting to see if the change in Government brings about changes for our education system. Whilst schools are not averse to change, we just hope that changes bring benefits to our schools and learners.

Teacher Only Day and Canterbury Anniversary Weekend

To conclude, there is a chance ahead for a long weekend for families.

On Thursday 16 November AshColl and other Canterbury secondary schools will be closed so that teachers can work together to finalise resources and courses for the changes in next year's NCEA Level 1.

This is followed by Canterbury's Anniversary Weekend on the Friday, 17 November. This may provide a last chance for a family break before the Christmas Season.



Preece
Principal • Tumuaki

Events

Outstanding Student 'Shave For a Cure' Fundraiser



Head students Sarah Wilson and Henry Thomas put in the hard mahi to organise and make this event a real success. The shaving of the locks took place in the big gym during lunchtime on Wednesday 11 October.

Why Were They Shaving Hair/Holding A Crazy Hair Day?

The students said they decided to do this crazy thing for an amazing cause. The purpose of shaving hair/holding a Crazy Hair Day was instigated to remember loved ones and support cancer patients.

The goal was to help find more effective treatments to save lives and make sure people with cancer can get the support they need to get through. Did we know the scary statistic that eight people will discover they have blood cancer on any one day.

Fundraising Target - \$6,000

At the time of putting this newsletter together fundraising had exceeded the target and was sitting at a very impressive \$6437. This is an outstanding effort by all involved, including sponsors.

Shaves

The five students and two staff members who bravely offered themselves for the cause were:



Laura Winchester



Tim Connelly-Whyte



Teacher Josh Sim



Isabel Wall



Teacher Sean Hewett



Patrizio Novello



Mia Chambers

Students who donated their profiles went into the draw to shave a strip of shaves' hair, while a good-sized and supportive crowd watched the action.



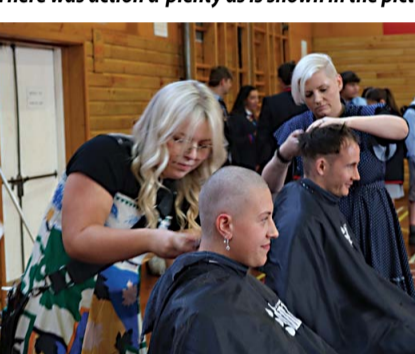
(Pictured above): Part of the crowd of supportive observers in the gym.

Appreciation

A huge appreciation is donated to Sarah McCrea and Debra Fowlie from DNA Hairdressing who donated their time to assist with the process of cutting, guiding students' cutting (and to 'tidy up' the hair at the end).

Non-died hair is donated to Freedom Wigs, which is the source for Isabel Wall's hair.

There was action a-plenty as is shown in the pictures below.



(Pictured left, clockwise from back left): Sarah McCrea and Debra Fowlie from DNA Hairdressing, 'operating' on teacher Josh Sim and student Mia Chambers.

Coming Events

Please note - * denotes subject to confirmation of student availability.

- October**
 - Final day for Year 11 and Year 12 students (refer below)
- 28-29** * SISS Schools' Rugby 7s, tbc
- 31** Year 11 and Year 12 Prize-giving, Ashburton Event Centre
- 31-02 Nov** Year 10 co-requisite tests
- November**
 - 03** SPACAP Leadership Breakfast, Ara Te Pukenga, Christchurch
 - 03-05** * Volleyball Canterbury Secondary Schools' Junior Tournament, Christchurch
- 06** NCEA Exams start
- 16** Teacher Only Day
- 17** Canterbury Anniversary Holiday
 - No NCEA exams
- 20** Year 9 Scholarship Exam, at College (by applications)
- 20-24** * Aoraki Junior Sports Week

Information

Ashburton College Year 9 Academic Scholarships for 2024

Criteria and application forms are available from your child's school.

The Closing Date for applications is Tuesday 14 November 2023, 12 noon.

The academic examinations will be held at Ashburton College on Monday 20 November from 9:00am-11:15am.

Enquiries and applications to be made to Sheena Tyrrell, Management Administrator,

Email: ts@ashcoll.school.nz

Phone: 308 4193, extension 812; 027 247 8003.

Please note that these Scholarships are Academic Excellence Scholarships.

2023 End-of-Year Final Days, Prize-Givings, Events

Parents, caregivers, family/whānau, friends and interested community members are most welcome to attend our remaining 2023 Prize-givings.

- October**
 - 27** Year 11 and Year 12 students' final day. Year 12 students finish at 1:20pm.
- 31** Year 11 students finish at 3:05pm. Year 11 and Year 12 Prize-giving (Combined), Ashburton Event Centre, 7:00pm.



Events



(Pictured left): Kaiwhaiki Peetitumango leading the College Kapa Haka Group in Te Wairua o Mata o Waka.



(Pictured below): Part of the Kapa Haka group performing a waiata.

Appreciation

Appreciation is given to Freedom-Lee Gleave, Oliver Davies and Kaiwhaiki Peetitumango for organising this week's activities.

Digital Waitaha - AshColl's Digital Ambassadors

Liz Carrick, Assistant Head of Senior School and Head of Department Foundation Studies, tells us that, at Ashburton College we have three amazing young people who have been working both locally and nationally to help people understand the digital world.

Hiro Koizumi, Noah Cassineri and Theo Vannini have been making regular trips to the Hakatere Marae to work with Kaumatua to support them with their digital skills. They have been showing them how to use different apps, work with their phones and also their iPads and laptops.

The kaumatua have loved this and are ready with questions every time the students go out there.

Youth Ambassador

Hiro has also become a youth ambassador for Digital Waitaha and has sat on a panel in front of fifty people at the Christchurch Innovation Panel. On this panel was Josh Hough from CORE Education and Cheryl Brown Head of School, School of Educational Studies and Leadership (EDSL) at the University of Canterbury (UC).

Hiro has learned how to create a podcast and has participated in the new Web Wise Warrior podcast.

Web Wise Warrior

Hiro has been busy making podcasts for youth, and the links below can take you to three already made:

- Plains FM: <https://bit.ly/webwisewarriors>
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/SPJCPqtWwWFRPOLE4pWv0>
- Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/web-wise-warriors/id1706234208>



Working with members of the Kaumatua Club are (pictured left) Hiro Koizumi, and (below, front): Theo Vannini, with Noah Cassineri at the end of the table.



Recruiting Members

This group is looking to expand their services for next year and will be recruiting new members.

If you are a student at Ashburton College and have skills and a passion in this area, then watch the Student Notices for the invitation to be involved in this amazing opportunity.

Congratulations

Target Shooting Successes

As advised in our two preceding newsletters, we continue to report on the impressive Target Shooting achievements gained by College students.

Charlotte McKenzie Selected to New Zealand Team to Oceania Continental Championships

Year 13 student Charlotte McKenzie is to travel to Australia for this competition, being held from 30 October-05 November, as part of the New Zealand Shooting Federation (Pistol, Rifle and Shotgun) selected New Zealand team to contest the above championships.

This is Charlotte's first international match, and she will be competing in the Women's 50m Prone Rifle. Former Mid Canterbury shooter and Ashburton College student, Shania Harrison-Lee, is also selected to this team and event.

This is a huge and exciting honour for Charlotte, and something she has been working towards for quite some time.



(Pictured right): Charlotte in her New Zealand team attire.

National District Championships Final

This final was held against Auckland on Thursday 31 August to crown the 2023 B League Champions and Henshaw Cup winners, of which the local team was current holders.

College students shooting for the district team were Bree Greer, Charlotte McKenzie, Eliza McKenzie, Jack Jones, Madi Tourle and Phoebe McKenzie; with non-travelling reserves being Sama Soialo and Nate Woods.

While not a schools-based tournament, College shooters are selected within the District team, on this occasion to the junior team.

The Nationals are often referred to as a shoulder-to-shoulder event as the competitors are at one venue, shooting side-by-side.

In former times, districts could only enter one team in each grade but a push from local members wrought a change to this with allowance now for more than one team in grades. This is of real benefit to secondary school students as it is only through this competition that shooters can gain match selection to the New Zealand Secondary Schools' team.

Target Shooting NZ (TSNZ) National Secondary Schools' Match (Inter-Island) Outcomes

As above, this is a shoulder-to-shoulder teams' match, which also incorporates individual prizes.

The event was held in six different venues around New Zealand simultaneously, with live feeds and updates available. This process is a hangover from Covid times, but there is hope that the event will return to one venue in 2024. The College teams shot in Christchurch, on 10 September. The teams of three, with a course of fire of three singles for each member, made for a total out of 900.90.

Team members:

From Ashburton College's top team, the following members were selected: Charlotte McKenzie, Madi Tourle, Phoebe McKenzie forming the Red Team; with Jack Jones, Eliza McKenzie, Bree Greer forming the Blue Team.

Thirty three teams and ninety nine shooters contested this match. With the lead see-sawing round-by-round, the team had an expected battle with Cambridge, Dannevirke and Marlborough Girls' High Schools, who are described as having some wonderful school competitors. Our students knew they were going to be in for a tough battle.

After Round 1, the Red Team was closely second; while the Blue Team had a cautious start to be 7th. Madi Tourle and Charlotte McKenzie led the way with strong opening targets.

Round 2 produced simply phenomenal scoring from the AshColl shooters. Madi had a beautiful 100.7 and Jack, Phoebe and Eliza all had slim testers lost for 99s each. Excitement was high, as Red took the lead with Blue rocketing into 4th place.

The question was, could the final round produce a double podium?

Round 3 saw another tester for a great 99 from Eliza and a cracking 98 from Bree, and Red stayed steady with 3 good 97s. The next question was, would this be enough?

Cambridge High School produced the round of the match in Round 3, with 297 to clinch the victory from the Red team for Silver, while the Blue Team moved into Bronze Medal position, edging out a classy Marlborough Girls' and Dannevirke High Schools for a history-making double podium (the first time in the long history of the match that one school takes two positions).

The scores in this match are the highest scores put forward by an Ashburton College team, with both the Red and Blue team scoring outcomes which would have won this match in most of the past ten years. Both teams averaged high A grade shooting.

It was so exciting to see Madi and Bree debut for a New Zealand team. Madi won her spot through a sublime run in the team rounds, producing a wonderful 296.10, including a 100.7.

Bree had a steady school match but took her chance in the South Island team for two great targets (99.02 and 97.06) to take a place with the New Zealand selection. This was wonderful work from both girls.

This match sees the end of both schools' matches for the year but also the Indoor competition season. It has been a long season with multiple peaks for these athletes, who are ready for a well-earned rest, except Charlotte McKenzie who heads straight to Outdoors with Oceania only just round the corner at the start of November.

All students have been great competitors for the school this year and have created amazing memories, as well as records and history.

Appreciation

This also marks the end of schools' shooting for Charlotte McKenzie, Jack Jones and Sama Soialo. These three have been tremendous ambassadors and servants for our sport and our school - and we thank them all.

Ashburton College is in safe hands heading into 2024 with Madi, Phoebe, Bree and Eliza all returning, and with plenty of fantastic members more than ready to step up.

Confirmation: First-ever Team to Double Podium and Record-Performing

It has recently been confirmed that the College teams are the first teams to double podium at the Nationals.

Additionally, the Red Team's score of 879.41 (for the National Silver Team Medal) broke the previous record of 878.46, held since 2014.

Toppling the high standard at this event, Cambridge High School also endorsed that score to now hold the record at 883.44, but commendation was sent for the College students who also toppled the record.

There is always great competition from around New Zealand for the National Title and individual selection to both the South Island Secondary Schools' and New Zealand Secondary Schools' Teams. This latter team shoots a match against the Great British Schools' Shooting Team.

The Final Outstanding Results and Selections were:

- Red Team:** National Silver Medallists.
- Blue Team:** National Bronze Medallists.



(Pictured left, left to right): AshColl 2023 National Silver Medal Team of Charlotte McKenzie, Madi Tourle and Phoebe McKenzie.



(Pictured right, left to right): AshColl 2023 National Bronze Medal Team of Bree Greer, Jack Jones and Eliza McKenzie.



Selection to South Island Secondary Schools' Team

Ashburton College had five members selected to the South Island Secondary Schools' Team, being the highest number ever selected from one school.

These were: Madi Tourle, selected as Captain; Charlotte McKenzie, Phoebe McKenzie, Eliza McKenzie and Bree Greer.

Captain of Plate Team

Jack Jones was selected as Captain of a Plate team.

2023 Top Individual Shooter

Madi Tourle - in the 3 x 10 Schools' Match, totalling 296.19 to take this award by .02 points from tied 2nd equal shooters from Cambridge High School and Queen Margaret College.

New Zealand Secondary Schools' Team Selection

Madi Tourle and Bree Greer. Both are debutantes at this level, which makes this selection a real coup for them personally and for their school and district.



(Pictured above, left and right): Bree Greer and Madi Tourle.