



Head of Junior School

Ako Time

People often ask me what Ako time is and why we have it, so I am going to spend a bit of time here writing about it.

Ako time is important for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it allows students to develop positive relationships with a teacher in the school, who can support them outside of the classroom.

This is an important relationship for students and families to have, and the Ako teacher is your first point of contact in our school.

This relationship also allows the Ako teacher to support your student with matters like attendance, and making sure they hear all of the school notices that are relevant to them.

This is how the Monday and Friday 15 minute slots are used - to check attendance and share notices. This time also allows our House Leaders to run House Assemblies and encourage students to sign up for House events.

Ako Curriculum

The Period 2 slot, weekly on Mondays, is where the Ako-time curriculum is delivered.

The focus of this time is on two main things:

- Firstly, it's about developing the soft skills that students need to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Secondly, this time is used to embed our College Values and help students to recognise what 'The AshColl Way' looks like in different aspects of school life.

The programme for this work has been developed by listening to student and teacher feedback from previous years, with a major focus on allowing students to be reflective about their time at school and giving them agency to recognise what is going well, what isn't going well, and the steps they can take to change that.

So far this year, students have spent time developing skills in the Google Suite, doing a weekly reflection about their classes and their learning, preparing themselves for subject and Ako teacher interviews, competing in class challenges, developing resilience strategies, looking at how they can live the AshColl Way Values in their interactions at school, and attending assemblies.

My challenge to the students of the Junior School is this: Ako time is what you make of it. If you come with a positive attitude and a willingness to be reflective and learn things about yourself and the school, then there is a wealth of knowledge you will get out of it.

I am always open to feedback about Ako time. You can email me any time with your ideas, on coj@ashcoll.school.nz

Uniform

As the winter months start to ramp up, it is an important time to remind students of what is and is not acceptable as part of our uniform policy.

Hoodies are not allowed as part of our uniform. Students can wear a plain black or navy jacket to keep warm and dry.

If you are having trouble getting the appropriate uniform, please get in touch with us. We have systems in place to provide support to our families and students when it is needed.

John Cook
Head of Junior School



Information

Seeking Host Families for International Students to Ashburton College

Ashburton College is seeking host families, with or without children, to open their homes, hearts and culture to international students from all over the world.

Learning about a new culture through hosting is a rewarding experience, helping to enable people to understand other languages, food, and customs.

Becoming a host family is one opportunity to explore diverse cultures without having to pay for expensive foreign travel!

Host families are compensated financially for welcoming a student into their homes.

International Student stays vary from as short as two weeks to an entire year.

Host families can choose what is the most comfortable length of time for you and your family.

Host families are required to fill in a New Zealand Police Vetting Service Request and Consent Form.

If this sounds like something you and your family are interested in, please contact Leigh Heaney-Lee - at international@ashcoll.school.nz

Events

As with our Congratulations section, we have a number of Events which have taken place over the past weeks, and prior to the end of last term. We now take the opportunity to highlight these also, as space allows.

German Rapper/Lecturer Visit

In late March College was fortunate to have Anjay, a German Rapper/Lecturer, visit from Berlin.

Teacher of German Tom Kitchen tells us that this was organised by The Goethe-Institut and Tui Tuia.

The Goethe-Institut is a non-profit German cultural association operational worldwide with 159 institutes, promoting the study of the German language abroad and encouraging international cultural exchange and relations. Around 246,000 people take part in these German courses per year.

Tui Tuia | Learning Circle provides Professional Learning and Development services and programmes. Working alongside leaders, teachers, and school communities, they have a focus on improving outcomes for learners in collaboration with educators, whānau, communities and ākonga.

Tom said that Anjay took workshops with Year 9, 10 and 11 German classes, on how to write rap, saying he first performed some of his songs, with one just happening to be a world premiere (!), and then taught students how to write their own raps.



(Pictured above): Anjay working with a Year 11 class.

Firstly, this involves establishing a flow by creating a beat with numbers of syllables, then choosing a rhyming word at the end. From there it is a matter of filling in the blanks with words that make sense and fit the remaining number of syllables.

Tom said that he and the students had a blast and are hoping to visit him, and drop-in on one of his lectures, when on the College's 2024 German Tour.



(Pictured above, left to right): Tui Palavi, Anjay, Smith Faoagali, Selonia Uluapano.



The Year 11 group (pictured above, back row, left to right): Charlotte Bell, Bridget Hyde, Bella Dawson, Kambel Frost, Aiden Nicolson, Briahna Watters, Caitlin McSorley, Anjay (Rapper), Caitlin Collie, Paige Hopkins, Sophia Aguila, Jess Wells, Tom Kitchen (Teacher), Alex Töniges (Tui Tuia German National Languages Advisor).

(Front row, left to right): Ethan Guthrie, Tristin Wills, Ashleigh Clarke, Ryan Heal, Amalia Worsfold.

Events

Impressive Performance by Phoenix Chorus at Festival of Choirs

Ashburton College's Phoenix Chorus, under the Musical Directorship of Music Teacher Angie Cresswell, performed outstandingly at the above festival held on Thursday 01 June, at the Ashburton Event Centre. Enhancing the musicality of the performance were the superb and sympathetic accompanying skills of pianist and Head of Music Stephen Diedericks.

Ashburton College joined five other choirs in this combined choirs' concert and, performing towards the end of the programme, received a resoundingly positive response from the audience as the choir presented their three pieces professionally; with clear tone, harmony and clarity of diction. The Chorus' pieces, on the evening, were - Royals (Yellich-O'Connor and Little); Runnin' Home to You (Pasek and Paul, arr Beck), and Keep Your Lamps (Traditional Spiritual, arr Johnson).

This evening was a very timely build-up to performing at the Big Sing Regional Secondary Schools' Choral Festival which, at the time of writing this newsletter, was taking place on Friday 09 June, in the Christchurch Town Hall.



(Pictured above): Phoenix Chorus members on a previous occasion, with Musical Director Angie Cresswell (far right, row two).

Successful Year 12 Business Studies Market Day

On a sunny, warm Thursday 25 May, Year 12 Business Studies students ran a successful market day where they sold their products to the students and staff of Ashburton College.

Business Studies teacher Kirsty Moffett advises that the students are completing a 9 Credit Internal Assessment where they have to plan, carry out and refine a business activity.

This first market day of the year is for the students to put their Business Plan to the test.

Kirsty indicated that the day was successful, with most business groups selling out by the end of lunchtime. She said that it was fabulous, also, to have students bring cultural products to market.

Chop Suey and Salata, Coconut Buns, a Noodle Station, Boujee Biccies (Ice-cream sandwiches), Candy Floss, Fruit Kebabs, Filipino Frozen Treats, Sausages, Milkshakes, Waffles and Lolly bags all proved popular with the crowds.



(Pictured above, front): Iela Mangubat serving a customer from the Noodle Train (selling noodle bowls) stall.

(Pictured above, front right): Ashley Gee, manning the Noodle Train stall.



(Pictured above): On the Zinnlin Snags (Classic Sausage Sizzle) stall (clockwise from the left) Jack Harrison and Jack Ellis serving; and Sam Jessep and Zac Douglas cooking.

(Pictured left): Meeah Pawsey making milkshakes, on the Creamy Shakes stall.

A percentage of all sales will be donated to local charities, in order to give back to our community.

For the students, further improvements will be made to their business plans and operations before the next market day in August. All involved are to be congratulated on the behind-the-scenes work which precedes the Market Day, aside from the work required on the day.



Congratulations

Student Successes

Again, we acknowledge further events, successes and experiences gained, which have happened over past times, and have yet to be acknowledged. In this newsletter we look at a culmination of two, traditionally, summer sports.

2022-2023 Water Ski Season Successes and New Zealand Water Ski Team Selection

For Ashburton College students Harriet Hill (Year 11) and Cameron Hill (Year 9) this Water Ski season was a very successful one.

Both skiers trained hard, with the three disciplines being trained for being Slalom, Trick and Jump. During the months of November-March, training is for upwards of 15 hours a week, which is a sizeable commitment out of school hours and, as can be read below, is not without risk. The calendar season is extensive and extends across the country from mid-October through until April in Canterbury and early May in Northland-Auckland.

The successes achieved by Harriet and Cameron are notable:

Cameron Hill

For thirteen-year-old Cameron, having experienced broken bones (particularly ankles) in training over the last few years, this was his first full competitive season. With his bones fully healed he has found a love for the Jump discipline, similar to his sister Harriet.

Cameron competed in many tournaments over this season and increased his scores in Slalom to 2 at 55km, Trick to 1250 points and Jump to 22.6m.

New Zealand Junior Masters Tournament

Cameron's highlight of the year was skiing at The New Zealand Junior Masters Tournament in early February, held at Lake Crichton.

This tournament brought together forty two of the best Under 21 year olds from across the North and South Island to take part in the four-day competition, and camping onsite.

Cameron was happy with his placing, coming away with Personal Bests in all three disciplines, and gaining a 6th placing in Slalom, 7th in Trick and 4th in Jump. Bearing in mind that these skiers were Under 21 year olds, these results are impressive from a thirteen year old.

Canterbury Regionals Placings - Overall 2nd Placed

At this event, which includes skiers from around the South Island, he gained 2nd place in both Slalom and Jump and a third in tricks. This led to him placing second overall in the Under 14 boys' section. The event was held at Lake Hood, from 31 March-02 April.



(Pictured left): Cameron competing in the Slalom at the Canterbury Regional Event, in which he gained his second placing.



(Pictured right): Cameron in the Jump, in which he also placed 2nd.

Harriet Hill

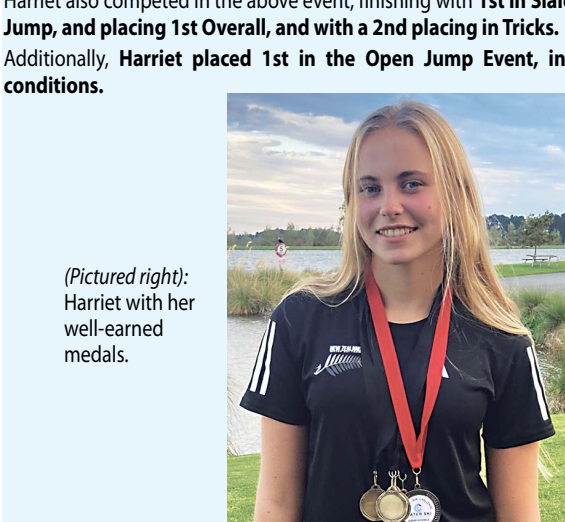
Four Medals at the New Zealand Junior Masters Tournament

Fifteen-year-old Harriet, as she was at the time, also competed in the above tournament gaining four medals.

Harriet won both the New Zealand Under 17 Girls' Jump event and the Overall Water Skier in the Under 17 Girls' Division, while also gaining Bronze Medals in both the Trick and Slalom.

Canterbury Regionals Placings - 1st and 2nd Placings

Harriet also competed in the above event, finishing with 1st in Slalom and Jump, and placing 1st Overall, and with a 2nd placing in Tricks. Additionally, Harriet placed 1st in the Open Jump Event, in trying conditions.



(Pictured right): Harriet with her well-earned medals.



(Pictured above): Harriet competing in the Jump at the Canterbury Regional Event.

Season's Highlight - Selection to New Zealand Water Ski Team

Harriet's highlight of the year came when named as part of the New Zealand Water Ski team and travelling to her first international event in March of this year.

The week-long Aussie-Kiwi competition was held in Albury-Wodonga, Australia. The conditions were perfect at the gateway lakes with glass calm water each day and temperatures in the late 30s. These fantastic conditions led to most of the New Zealand team attaining Personal Best scores.

In these conditions, Harriet's Jump extended to a massive 28.1m. In the end the Australian team won the event with the Kiwi team picking up the silver.

The event was described as thoroughly enjoyable, with both teams staying at the Lake Hayes Resort together for the duration of the tournament, and creating a cross-Tasman camaraderie that will support the skiers at future international events.

This has certainly been a very successful season for both skiers.

A New Experience at the Croquet New Zealand Terminator Mallets Under 21 Golf Croquet Championships

College Year 13 student Alice Homer gained an immeasurable experience at the above Championships, held in Ashburton mid-April, and hosted by the Waireka Croquet Club.

Coach/Manager Gail Bensemann said that twenty four players were entered into the Singles Competition, with experience levels ranging from World Elite level to players with only competitive play in Regional Secondary Schools' Championships.

The competition was played in two blocks of Round Robin play, with the top 8 then playing a knockout competition for the Championship Trophy while the remainder of competitors continued to compete, in the Plate Knockout section.

Considering Alice's very small amount of experience at competitive play, she competed well, gaining one win while overall, she earned results that showed she was playing competitive parts in a number of her games.

Additionally, and importantly, she gained extra experience to carry forward, and enjoyed the learning gained through mostly playing people who recently competed in the World Under 21 Championships played at Tauranga earlier in the year.

Alice chose entry to this event because weather caused cancellation of the Aoraki Secondary Schools' Championships this year. The opportunity to play against good players, as well as playing in a competition with peers, was too good to be missed.

This proved to be the right decision as Alice's highlights were meeting other people her age who play the game seriously. Game play provided high points as well, as she was pleased with her thinking during play, along with her accurate roquets (where a ball strikes another ball, entitling the player to two extra strikes) hitting her opponents' ball away when they were sitting in front of a hoop.



(Pictured above): Alice's blue ball on a perfect line to stop red from hooping.

To quote Alice - 'I was happy with how I did, and my play improved. I enjoyed the tournament and think that everyone should give it a go if they want'. This is a good recommendation of the sport of croquet to young people.

Strong Results at the New Zealand Secondary Schools' and Margaret Woolf Rhythmic Gymnastics Competitions

College students Hayley Duffell and Anna McFall competed in these two competitions over the weekend of 27-28 May, hosted by the North Harbour Gymnastics Club.

Kathryn Holdsworth, of Olympia Gymnastic Sports Christchurch, was Team Manager.

Both competitors gained very positive outcomes from the weekend:

Year 11 Student Anna McFall - 1st Overall

In the Secondary Schools' Competition Anna placed 1st Overall; gained from 1st placings in the Hoop, Ball and Clubs, and 3rd placing in the Ribbon.

In the Margaret Woolf Competition Anna's results were 2nd in the Hoop, Ball and Clubs, and 5th in the Ribbon.



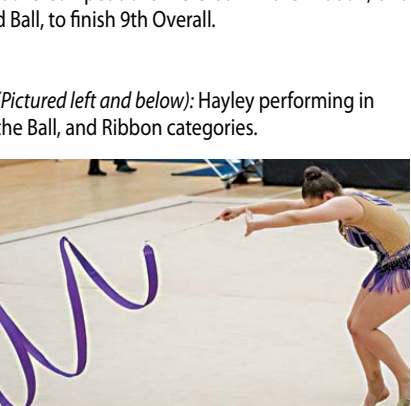
(Pictured above right): Anna with her first placing medal and certificate, and (left) performing in the Hoop category.

Year 9 student, Hayley Duffell - Canterbury Team Selection

Hayley is described as having had a great competition, with her results helping her secure a place to compete as part of the Canterbury Team at the Gymnastics Nationals event in Tauranga in June.

Only the top 20 gymnasts in her grade can compete, after first passing the qualifying score from competitions during the season.

Hayley's results at the above competitions were 8th in the Ribbon, and 10th in both the Hoop and Ball, to finish 9th Overall.



(Pictured left and below): Hayley performing in the Ball, and Ribbon categories.

Coming Events

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

June	
15-16	Puaka (brightest star in Orion Constellation, and very visible in Hakatere Ashburton), Ashburton Museum Year 12 Outdoor Education Bush Survival trip, Peel Forest Outdoor Centre
16	South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Boys'/Girls' Basketball Winter Competition, Southern Trust Events Centre, Timaru South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Junior Girls' A Basketball Competition, Pioneer Sports Complex, Christchurch
17-18	Mid Canterbury Combined Hockey 2nd XI, Forster Park, Rolleston NZ Secondary Schools' Cross-Country, Palmerston North * South Island Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships, Invercargill
18	* Roncalli Year 9/10 Netball Tournament, Timaru
19	Year 13 Nursing Taster Day, Ara Christchurch
20	* Aoraki Girls' Junior Basketball, Ashburton Junior Boxing Programme, Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy Basketball - Senior Boys and Girls, Junior Boys, Christchurch
21	* Aoraki Boys' Junior Basketball, Timaru College A Netball, SuperNet Competition, Christchurch Rugby Girls' 1st XV vs Geraldine High School, Geraldine (4:30pm) Rugby Girls' Under 15 vs Geraldine High School, Methven (4:30pm)
22	Aoraki Girls' Football, various venues
23	Year 9 KIWI Science competition AshColl Ball, Ashburton Event Centre, 8:00pm South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Boys'/Girls' Basketball Winter Competition, Southern Trust Events Centre, Timaru South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Junior Girls' A Basketball Competition, Pioneer Sports Complex, Christchurch
24-25	* Mid Canterbury Combined Hockey 2nd XI, Forster Park, Rolleston * South Island Secondary Schools' Squash Tournament, Christchurch
25	* Aoraki Netball, Ashburton