



Message From The Principal

Course Information Evening

Last week we had our annual Course Information Evening at the Hotel Ashburton. This is always an important and well-attended evening on our school calendar.

The information available gives guidance to students and their whānau about what is involved in various courses and how these might open up future career or study options.

Making an informed choice is always best.

Two Dates to Note for Next Week

Looking forward to next week, there are two dates to bear in mind.

On Thursday 24th we are closed for instruction for the day, with all teachers involved in our annual all-school well-being.

These three-way interviews are now well-established here at AshColl, and they enable the Ako teacher to maintain regular contact with whānau and to update their aspirations for their child's future.

As usual these interview slots are booked online, and you can contact our office if you are unsure of the process and they will help you.

On Friday 25th the College is closed for Mid-Term break.

Next Five Weeks of School

The next five weeks of school are going to be very busy.

We have the Secondary Schools' Winter Sports Tournament week with eleven teams competing in multiple codes in venues all over the South Island. This is our greatest number of winter sports teams involved for many years.

To those players who have been selected to make these travelling teams, congratulations. I would encourage you to thank coaches, managers and parents who are accompanying your team.

Aside from coaching the team, there is fundraising, booking accommodation and travel, plus all the entry forms and health and safety requirements to complete before the first game even begins. Please remember to thank all those who have made it possible for you to attend.

Derived Grade Exams

This week is followed by our Derived Grade Exams in Weeks 8 and 9 of this term. These provide valuable preparation for the NCEA exams, and results are relied upon if a candidate is unable to sit their NCEA external exams at the end of the year. We always have a small number of students who require 'compassionate consideration'.

After exams, that will leave just seven school days for all internal assessments to be finished by the end of Term 3.

Congratulations to our Mid Canterbury Combined 1st XV Rugby Team – Winners of Toyota Championship

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our 1st XV rugby team who have won the Toyota Championship with a tense 6-0 win over Christchurch Boys' High School 2nd XV.

In 2022 we made the decision to withdraw from the Toyota Championship because we lacked the player depth and commitment to compete at this level.

This year, we returned with new coaches and managers and, most importantly, thirty-plus boys who wanted to play. Their results were outstanding this year with our only loss being against Christchurch Boys' High (22-18). However, our team won out in a close semi against Rangiora High School (23-20), and the final against Christchurch Boys' High School 6-0.

My congratulations go to the coaches, managers, fundraisers, supporters and to the players for this stellar accomplishment.

We now have the right to enter the Premiership competition next year, if we choose to do so. If we exercise this right, then one team will be relegated to the Championship grade. There is plenty of careful consideration ahead before we make that call.

Have a great week.



Ross Preece
Principal • Tumuaki

Information

Ako Interviews/College Closure and Mid-Term Break

Ako Interviews/College Closure - Next Thursday 24 August

Please note that the College will be closed for normal instruction on this day in order to hold Ako interviews for all year levels. These interviews provide opportunity for students to share information, and review goals and progress with their Ako teacher and parent/caregiver.

The interviews will be held at Ashburton College, from 10:00am-8:00pm, in students' Ako Rooms.

Fifteen minutes is allocated for each interview.

Families are to book their interview times on-line, and this information will be provided to families.

If you are unable to book online please contact the College Office, 308 4193.

All students/families are expected to attend an Ako Interview on the day, with their parent/caregiver.

Senior students may attend on their own if their parent/caregiver is unable to come in.

Mid-Term Break: Friday 25 August

Please note that College will be closed on this day, for its mid-term break.

All students are to be back in College for Monday 28 August, when timetabled classes resume.

Events

Open Evening Well-Attended

College's Open Evening was very well-attended on Thursday 27 July, from 5:30pm, with over 500 people through the school. These opportunities to connect directly with our prospective 2024 new students and whānau and members of our community are valued.

Families were able to meet in the Auditorium for a welcome and introduction from the Principal, at 5:30pm and 6:15pm. Following this, members of the College's Student Executive and Year 9 Council conducted tour groups around the rooms open for viewing and displays.



Display areas covered Art, Digital Technologies, Drama, English, Fabrics, Home Economics, Graphics, Languages, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Sciences and Technology. All Year 9 students take English, Mathematics, Physical Education and Health, Science, Social Studies plus nine option subjects from the twelve available.

(Pictured left): Year 10 student Jayden Healee demonstrating life in the Home Economics room.

The recipients this week are:



Alexi Hardie
Year 9



Molly Harrison
Year 10



Faith Davies
Year 11



Zoe Cribb
Year 12



Lara Shierlaw
Year 13

Events



(Pictured right): Some impressive welding was being undertaken by Year 10 student Caleb Armstrong.

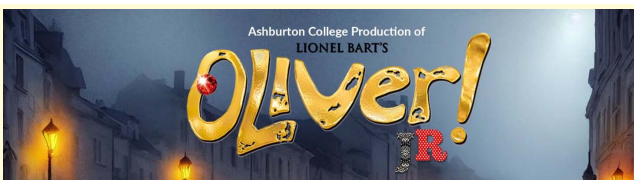


(Pictured left, left and right): Matthew Chris Go demonstrating static current while Ben Jurd sets up dry ice.

With both BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and Uniform suppliers set up in the staffroom; and barbecue food, tea, coffee and juice in the staffroom courtyard, the conclusion of the tours had plenty to offer as well.

Enrolment Week

Open Evening was followed by Enrolment Week, with families coming into College to meet with relevant staff, discuss further information and complete enrolment procedures.



Full-house audiences were treated to this outstanding College musical production, held over the evenings of Wednesday 02, Thursday 03 and Saturday 05 August, plus a matinee performance on the Saturday afternoon.

A production of this quality happens as an outcome of a huge amount of input, over many months, from all personnel involved, plus the performers themselves. The range of top talent on display was totally impressive, recognised by standing ovation.

College, as a whole, acknowledges the many, many hours and days put into production, rehearsal and presentation. Over 100 hours of rehearsals alone were held.

A read through of the recognitions of students and staff will give an idea of the scope and size of the production, and the range of skills required to put together the complete package.



(Pictured above): The Workhouse Kids with their bowls of gruel.

Directors – Special Acknowledgement, for their contributions, is given to:

Director and Producer	Claire Bubb
Musical Director	Angela Cresswell
Choreographers	Julia Bell and Dana Dawson
Technical Manager	Alister Emerson
Auditorium Manager	Ron Cresswell

Cast

Oliver - Zach Fox	Dodger - Charlotte Livingstone
Fagin - Ron Cresswell	
Nancy - Laura Mihailescu Bogdan / Olivia Fox	
Sykes - Wiremu Keefe-Paul	Bed - Tamsin Cartney
Mr Bumble - Isabel Wang	Widow Corney - Rachel Hoekstra
Mr Sowerberry - Nate Woods	Mrs Sowerberry - Maddie Page
Charlotte - Audrey Smith	Noah Claypole - Liam Walker



Events

Handwalker (Fagin's gang) - Hayley McQuillan-Ross
Charlie (Fagin's gang) - Anna McFarlane
Nipper (Fagin's gang) - Kylie Wells
Mr Brownlow - Luke Rhodes
Dr Grimwig - Hal Twiname
Strawberry Seller - Taylor Doyle
Old Sally/Rose Seller - Simone Forster Lobato de Faria



(Pictured above): Workhouse Kids holding newcomer Oliver Twist aloft.

Fagin's Gang/Orphans/Workhouse Kids

Holly Burrows (Dancer)	Nixie De Vera (Dancer)	Lennox Officer (Dancer)
Leane Senekal (Dancer)	Bella Robertson	Maria Rodriguez
Bella Dawson (Gentry)	Paige Homer (Gentry)	Mia Chambers (Gentry)

Dancers

Iela Mangubat	Layla Ward	Maddison Davidson
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(Pictured above): Fagin with his Gang (You've got to pick a pocket or two!).

Creatives

Lighting Design - Alister Emerson.	Lighting Operation - Rebekah Clarke.
Lighting Mentor - Jared Munn.	Followspots - Hayden Duffell
	Jack Halford

Rigging Crew - Jared Munn, Alister Emerson, Ron Cresswell, Rebekah Clarke, Ashleigh Clarke, Hayden Duffell, Jack Halford.

Stage Manager - Alastair Kilgour.

Assistant Stage Manager - Ashleigh Clarke.

Backstage Crew - Brooklyn Tanirau, Maruschka Smit, Tyler Dyson, Bridget Hyde.

Cue Caller - Claire Bubb.

Sound Engineer - Stephen Garton.

Radio Mics - Finn Brown.

Soundtrack Operation - Al Dyer.

Set Design - Cherie Livingstone.

Set Construction Crew - Cherie Livingstone, Pete Livingstone, Ron Cresswell.

Props - Cherie Livingstone.

Costume Design - Candy Clark.

Front/Programme - Alister Emerson.

Front of House - Delia Achten, Jo Wakelin, Kirsty Moffett, Ros Rhodes, Pip Duffell, Jenny Crouchley.



(Pictured above): Nancy (Olivia Fox) on London Bridge.

Outstanding AshColl Alumni Variety Concert with Simon O'Neill & Friends

The first week in August held days of performances for the many current students, while current and former students formed the 'friends' part of the Simon O'Neill & Friends concert held at the Ashburton Event Centre on Friday 04 August.

A capacity crowd supported this very successful AshColl Alumni fundraising concert, and we thank the AshColl Alumni personnel for their initiative in spearheading this occasion.

Once again we are indebted to the generosity of Ashburton College Alumni Ambassador and world-acclaimed Tenor Simon O'Neill, and the performers who also gave of their time and talents for the purpose of raising funds to benefit Ashburton College.



(Pictured left, left and right): Simon O'Neill reminiscing with Master of Ceremonies Phill Hooper.

Acknowledged With Real Appreciation are:

Many people were integral to the success of the concert, with performers all having links with Ashburton College.

Production Manager	Ron Cresswell
Lighting	Roger Farr
Sound	James Wood
Staging Assistant	Noah Cassineri
Master of Ceremonies	Phill Hooper
Advance Ashburton Executive Officer	Carolyn Clough
Accompanists	Jared Corbett, Iola Shelley, Carollee Andrew, Stephen Diedricks.

A Very Special Mention also goes to –

- Kaiwhakahaere o te reo Māori Tiipene Philip, the College Kapa Haka Rōpū and their leader, former College student Sonia-Leigh Stephens-Tahuri.
- Phoenix Chorus Musical Director Angela Cresswell, the Phoenix Chorus and Accompanist Stephen Diedricks.
- College Student Executive members Edelmá Kelsall and Mia Manoa who sold raffle tickets at the event, with the winners having the opportunity to sit on stage with Simon O'Neill, on the couch.

Performers

It was a real treat for the audience to revisit former College performers, learn of and revel in their extensive pathways since their College years. The number of talented artists was commented on, and included reference to many more who also could have been on stage had time permitted.

It was a real bonus also to receive video messages of support from former students Hayden Roulston (former Olympic cyclist, now Real Estate Agent in Christchurch), Peter Datlen (Global Commercial Launch Service Manager for Rocket Lab, based in the UK), Raymond Ager (Concrete truck driver for ACL) and Anna Lovatt [nee Moore] (Squadron Leader in Australian Airforce). Aside from the opportunity to again hear Simon sing in Ashburton, and add to the commentaries of the evening, was the support of and interest he gave to the performers and to the College groups, reiterating his involvement in the Phoenix Chorus during his time at College.

A big thank you and recognition goes to the 'friends' –

Zara Ballara, The Band (Simon Christensen, Nikita Christensen, Pete Malthus, Jesse Bruce); Jack Bubb, Lucy Clough, Jared Corbett, The Decibelles (those who were former students), Luke Glendinning, Sarah Hart, College Kapa Haka Rōpū, Olivia Pike, Pipers Harman Doak and Ruairidh MacLean and the Phoenix Chorus.

Ashburton College's Kapa Haka Rōpū was privileged to open the concert. The group, otherwise known as Te Waiura o Maata Waka, is tutored by former student Sonia-Leigh Stephens-Tahuri. After not being able to compete since 2019, the group is now excitedly waiting to compete in the annual Flava Festival to be hosted in Timaru, early September.

Rōpū members are:

Leader (kaiaiko): Sonia-Leigh Stephens-Tahuri with performers Jayme Byron, Rhiannon Choat, Kingston Culshaw, Caleb Ede, Jack Fifita, Freedom-Lee Gleave, Jason Reign Gleave, Mereka Hawe, Ricjale Heke, Unieque Heke, Ellenor Irimana, Aliyah Larry, Ebony Manuel-Hayes, Rongomai Heke, Annachez Pakinga Huriwai, Kaiwhakahi Peetitumango, Haumaringiringi Poutini-Katu, Henahsea Rangī, Tui Rangī, Kelly Ratapu, Payton Rehutahi, Honey Reuben, Grason Rutene, Janaya Smith-Allan, Tuaine Strickland, Kahū Teruki, AJ Teuru, Eniya Kururangi Te Roi, Hapina Wikohika, Jakayla Williams, Skylah Wilson-Brown, Joshua Winter.



(Pictured above): The College's Kapa Haka Rōpū opening the evening with their performances.

Phoenix Chorus

Many of the Alumni on stage had been a part of the Phoenix Chorus, with AshColl Choirs having been instrumental in providing a platform for the beginning of several musical journeys that have taken people around the world.

This year the choir has competed in the Big Sing, performed at the Concert of Choirs and the Mid Canterbury Schools' Music Festival.

Musical Director Angie Cresswell said that excitement was high for this

concert, with members delighted to be invited and to be in the presence of other performers of such outstanding calibre. It must be said, also, that the Chorus performed outstandingly, with polish, clear diction and musicality.

Phoenix Chorus Members are:

With Musical Director Angela Cresswell; singers were: Kaitlin Adams, Laura Bogden, Gianna Butler, Sarah Bradley, Sabrina Cassineri, Ashleigh Clarke, Abby Cochrane, Amelia Cosgrove, Jordis Double, Taylor Doyle, Olivia Fox, Chloe Graham, Amelia Harris, Emma Hill, Rachel Hoekstra, Alice Homer, Paige Homer, Madeleine Howden, Bridget Hyde, Maria Lawn, Erin McBain, Charlotte McKenzie, Eliza McKenzie, Isabelle Morten, Cherish Moti, Venus Rodriguez, Isabel Wang, Joelle Watson, Madison Whyte.

Accompanist: Stephen Diedricks.

For the night's performance the choir was delighted to welcome back former Phoenix Choir members Emma Cochrane, Emily Greer, Zoe Kenny and Ngahua Maeva.



(Pictured above): The Phoenix Chorus in song.



(Pictured above, left to right): Phoenix Chorus members Gianna Butler, Sabrina Cassineri (obscured) and Olivia Fox with Simon O'Neill on stage, as Simon regales stories of his time with the Phoenix Chorus and Ashburton College.



About The Advance Ashburton Community Foundation and College Alumni Trust Fund

The Foundation is a registered Trust set up to connect generous donors with local community organisations and causes they care about.

Now celebrating its 20th anniversary of local philanthropy in 2023, Advance Ashburton is very proud to hold the Ashburton College Alumni Trust Fund, with the primary purposes being to:

- benefit present and past students and staff of Ashburton College and of its predecessor schools – Ashburton High School and Ashburton Technical College/Hakaterere College.
- promote the welfare of present students and staff of Ashburton College.
- provide scholarships to Ashburton College students who have made outstanding contributions to the College in cultural, music or academic pursuits.

Peter Gluyas, AshColl Alumni Chair noted the many former students who have had success in a huge range of endeavours, within New Zealand and beyond.

He said the AshColl Alumni believes it is timely for the group to flourish and to provide Ashburton College with resources that are not otherwise provided, saying that further scholarships and certain infrastructure to enable students to widen their College experience form some of the areas for potential support.



Collaboration with the Advance Ashburton Community Foundation managing the Alumni Funds will allow the Alumni to channel funds back into the College in perpetuity.

(Pictured left): Peter Gluyas concluding the evening.

Donations of any size can be made to the Fund at any time, with donations tax creditable. If you wish to donate or find out more information please visit www.advanceashburton.org.nz or email executive@advanceashburton.org.nz or phone 021 886 087 or 03 307 5902.

