



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 19
22 June 2023

News

Message From The Principal

Mid-Year

Mid-year has arrived and even though we still have plenty of winter weather ahead of us, it is tempting to think that spring is heading our way.

Growing up as a child in Christchurch in the 1960s I have fond memories of the first northwest wind arriving, because that always gave hope that the worst of winter was over.

Heating System

The heating system for our campus makeover has been installed. It has been described to me as a giant heat pump that has the capacity to heat or cool the entire school. The system itself is imported from Italy and, once it's functional, it will replace our coal-fired boiler. We are expecting a distinct rise in electricity use! Currently our students in classrooms have no option but to 'sweat it out' during February.

It is clear that having effective climate control does boost learning.

Once the Rangitata Block has been completed there will be opportunities for viewing our new facilities.

NCEA Changes / Co-Requisites

The process of changes to NCEA, particularly at Level 1, continues. One of the most significant changes will be the introduction of 'co-requisites'. These are formally assessed via an externally marked, online exam.

There are assessments in Reading, Writing and Numeracy and students are required to pass all three of these before they can be awarded NCEA.

There will be two opportunities each year to pass these assessments, while at College. This year we have agreed to being part of a trial of this assessment material, with about seventy Year 10 students acting as a 'pilot group'.

The good news for this particular group is that, if they pass these co-requisites this year, then those results count towards their NCEA Level 1. Therefore, any student who achieves the co-requisites will have these results credited to them for their NCEA Level 1 in 2024.

The planned changes to NCEA Level 2 have been delayed by a further year to ensure that any issues with the changes at Level 1 have been sorted before making changes at Level 2.

Industrial Action

The industrial dispute between PPTA (Post-Primary Teachers' Association) and the Ministry of Education has escalated, now with two year levels being rostered home on Monday through to Thursday each week until the end of term.

As a school we have decided that our priority needs to be the teaching, learning and assessment programmes for our students. Due to this priority, this has brought about the cancellation of some extra-curricular events which would have taken students away from classroom learning. This is unfortunate, and the Burnside and Rangiora High Schools' sports exchanges are amongst the cancellation, as is Lip Sync for this term.

My thanks to everyone who support our students' cultural events and teams in the numerous sporting competitions.

Everyone is hopeful of a settling as soon as possible.

Take care with your winter driving.



Ross Preece
Principal • Tumuaki

Staff – Farewells

Kirsty Fortune

Kirsty has been with us at College since February 2021, working for the first two years as a Learning Support Assistant in Te Whare Manaaki.

At the beginning of this year she decided on a change of focus, and began working with students and staff in the ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) Department.

Kirsty brought excellent life experiences and skills to the position and formed wonderful relationships with the students, and encouraging them to achieve to their full potential was Kirsty's first consideration always.

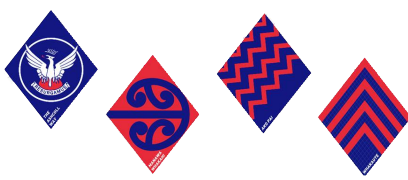
In her roles she spent time researching activities to meet the student needs and displayed obvious enjoyment in the position, as well as in forming positive interactions with both staff and students.

We are very sorry to lose her from Ashburton College, when she finishes at the end of this term on Friday 30 June; both for the person she is and for her skills, but we do wish her every success as the family relocates from Ashburton.

Term Dates 2023 –

Term Two		- Friday 30 June
Term Three	Monday 17 July	- Friday 22 September (Note: Friday 25 August-Mid Term Break)
Term Four	Monday 09 October	- Thursday 26 October (Year 13) - Tuesday 31 October (Years 11/12) - Tuesday 12 December (Years 9 and 10)

The AshColl Way



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. This week we look at one of these events.

Guest Speakers to Year 12 Vocational English Classes

Information provided by Year 13 student Laura Winchester

Many opportunities are provided to College students during the school year to learn of the range of vocational options, courses and study available to school leavers.

One example of this was during Weeks 8 and 9 of last term where six guest speakers came in to speak to two Year 12 Vocational English classes about their experiences after leaving school.

James McCloy, from EuroAgri; Fiona Bradley, Pharmacist; and Della Glassey, Real Estate Agent, all attended Ashburton College and left to enter different workplaces.

The speakers answered questions about their workplace: what they do, the processes, what types of jobs are on offer and more.

The classes also heard from Ruby Bowman, owner of Blink Artistry; and Mark Titter and Sud Sharma, who are currently working on the new District Council building in town.



(Pictured above): Pharmacist Fiona Bradley addressing the students.



(Pictured above): Real Estate Agent Della Glassey with the class group.



(Pictured above, front and back): Mark Titter and Sud Sharma talking with the class about the District Council new build.

The presenters also answered questions about how they benefited from school, outlining what skills they used from school, what they wished school had prepared them for, and the different types of English skills required in their job (reading, writing, researching etc.).

This was a great opportunity for the Year 12 Vocational English students to learn more about leaving school to join the workforce; along with the different job opportunities available in the Ashburton Community, and the skills that students can take from school to help them in their future careers. A big thank you was given to those who came and spoke to the classes.

Events

Phoenix Chorus Performs Well at the Big Sing

Chorus Manager Ron Cresswell said the choir members and management had a very productive day at this year's Big Sing Regional Secondary Schools' Choral Festival which took place in the Christchurch Town Hall on Friday 09 June.

The Big Sing is a regional secondary schools' choral festival that takes place in ten centres, involving around 8,000 students from over 200-plus schools. The Big Sing has been taking place for over thirty years and is New Zealand's largest choral event, with singers entering regional competitions held in Northland, Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Taranaki, Manawatu/Whanganui, Wellington, Marlborough/Nelson, Canterbury/West Coast, Otago and Southland.

For Ashburton College, thirty one students formed this year's choir, with this being the first time that the choir consisted of students from all year groups. For the Year 9 and 10 students it has been a steep learning curve but, thanks to our amazing senior students and especially the choral leaders, the juniors have been welcomed in, supported and encouraged by the senior students in a way that exemplifies the Ashburton College Values.

Ron said that the day was busy, with nerves all round. The experience of the impressive Christchurch Town Hall has generated memories that will stay in the hearts of the students for many years to come.

The Choir sang three songs in the afternoon and then, in the evening, one song in the Gala Performance.

(Pictured right): A section of the choir in performance.

(Front row, left to right): Isabel Wang, Amelia Cosgrove, Maria Lawn, Madison Whyte, Laura Mihailescu Bogden.

(Back row, left to right): Bridget Hyde, Taylor Doyle, Olivia Fox, Sabrina Cassineri.

College staff and members had the chance to catch up with Ashburton's very own Dr Jared Corbett, and former College student. Jared has become a strong member of the New Zealand Choral Federation team and was also compere for the Gala Concert in the evening, where the Phoenix Chorus gave a stunning performance of *Runnin' Home To You*.

The other two presentations from the choir were *Royals* and *Keep Your Lamps*.

Once again the choir was expertly directed by Angie Cresswell and skilfully accompanied by Head of Music, Stephen Diedricks. Neither of these musicians are strangers to the Town Hall stage.



(Pictured above): Phoenix Chorus in full voice, in the Christchurch Town Hall, under the leadership of Angie Cresswell, and with accompanist Stephen Diedricks.

We acknowledge the significant work which goes into preparing for such an event, with accolades also to the students' commitment and hard work. They represented College well.

Forklift Operator Course for Students available through Community Support

A group of nine College students was given the opportunity to complete their Forklift Operator Course, without cost, with sincere thanks to the Ashburton District Council.

The students spent Friday morning, 09 June, at the District Council, working through a theory workbook and then practising their skills on a forklift, kindly loaned by Ruralco.

College students were joined by students from Mt Hutt College and Ashburton Christian School. To celebrate passing their first test in becoming proficient forklift operators, Ashburton District Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan shouted them morning tea to celebrate.

The students would like to thank the District Council's Taskforce Youth Employment Coach Sharon Watson, Ruralco and the Ashburton District Council for the opportunity to complete this course.

This programme was part of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Community Resilience Programme, a national programme operating in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, helping teens into work or training.

(Pictured right, left to right): Three of the College students with their Forklift Operator Certificates

Eddie Galbraith, Sam Orr and Laura Walsh.

Other course participants and certificate recipients were

Jaykob Argyle, Fletcher Hobbs, Oliver Hobbs, Lachie Jewett, Tom Rosemar, James Stocker.



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Talofa Lava - Samoa Language Week Celebrated

Samoa Language Week nationally was celebrated from Sunday 28 May – Saturday 03 June, with the theme for Vaiaosa o le Gagana Samoa - Samoa Language Week 2023 - being 'Mitamita i lau gagana, mau'a lou fa'asinomaga' which means 'Be proud of your language and grounded in your identity'.

This year's theme focused on the importance of the Samoan language and identity. It emphasised the need of not only understanding the Samoan language, but to also using it as much as possible. Encouraged was being proud of their language, being able to speak it, in order to be more grounded in their identity as a Samoan.

Mitamita i lau gagana, mau'a lou fa'asinomaga encouraged Samoan language pride in four key areas: ancestral language; spiritual language, language in families and written language.

College's Student Cultural Committee

Recognition is given to Edelma Kelsall, Leader of the College's Student Cultural Committee, the members of this committee, and staff members who supported the week.

Cultural Committee members, alongside Edelman as Committee Leader, are Year 13 students Oliver Davies, Freedom-Lee Gleave, Orpah Silo, Rere Strickland, Sera Ula, Cecilia Vaelua, and Year 12 student Ripena Umaga Vaela.

The Week's Activities at College, from 06-09 June

Edelman said that, throughout International Language Week held at College during the week of 06-09 June, students were able to express AshColl's cultural diversity through dance, movies, food and dressing up in cultural attire.

The committee thanks Teacher of German Tom Kitchen and Teacher of Japanese Hiromi Horsley for planning this significant week. Also thanked was College Caretaker Richard Horrell for helping with set-up and the parents who brought and made all the delicious food.

The Programme Each Day Encompassed:

Tuesday: Raising the Samoan Flag. It is notable that this was raised on the College flag-pole but, with build requirements, the flag-pole was removed that day to make way for trenches. Cultural flags are now displayed in Principal Ross Preece's office, looking out on to the Chessboard.

A backdrop was also used, for photo opportunities, as part of the week's activities; photos were taken of students with a Samoan flag, and phrases placed on social media.



(Pictured above): Edelma Kelsall, raising the flag of Samoa.

(Pictured left, left to right): With the flag of Samoa – Sera Ula, Edelma Kelsall and Sifala Sagaga.

Cultural Performances

A key feature of Tuesdays were the cultural performances held in the Auditorium during the lunch break. These enthusiastically received performances also included a 'guess the flag' quiz.

Dances performed were Siva Samoa (the traditional Samoan dancing); an Ura (a Cook Island dance performed by a female); a Māori Pūkana challenge (where facial expressions are an important facet of Kapa Haka); and from India – best Indian Dance moves.



Performing at the lunchtime concert on Tuesday (pictured above, left to right): Poe-Joseph Taumoe, JJ Tupa, Setu Tupa and Ma'anaima Lenee.

(Pictured right): Rere Strickland performing the Ura.

On Wednesday and Thursday: Movies were available, with students free to watch a Japanese anime and a German film in two classrooms during the lunch break.

Friday: The four day's activities culminated with Cultural Bite food stalls and the wearing of cultural clothes. The food stalls proved very popular, including speciality dishes of:

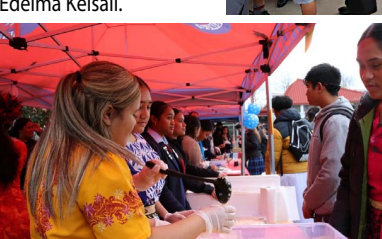
- Japan - Sushi
- Germany - Marmorkuchen (Marble Cake)
- Samoa - Curry 'n Rice, Pineapple Pie
- Tonga - Otai (Mango and Pineapple Juice)
- Philippines - Dumplings, Spring Rolls, Snacks
- Māori - Fried Bread



(Pictured right): Students gathering to purchase their lunchtime preferences.



(Pictured below, front to back): Serving are Mia Manoa, Sera Ula, Ripena Umaga Vaela, Edelman Kelsall.



(Pictured below, right): Serving (left to right): Orpah Silo, Princess Pureza and Hazel Bernarte.

(Pictured below): Teachers Hiromi Horsley and Tom Kitchen serving from the Japanese and German food stall.



(Pictured below, left and right): Hope Mendez and Mikaela Rigor are two satisfied customers.



(Pictured below, front row, left to right): Ripena Umaga Vaela, June Tilialo, Mouniga Uluapano, Shila Savage, Janice Milo, Sarai Faalavai, Emma Matau, Bollensia Siao.

(Middle row, left to right): Edward Gabriel, Setu Fetoai, Nonu Tilialo, Aggelos Vaela Umaga, Christian Iolama, Smith Faoagali, Ege Lauina.

(Back row, left to right): Tafu Aiono Falealili, Gregory Taumaoe, Fauaea Sione, Mei Vaela, Arjay Tulaga, Poe-Joseph Taumaoe, Ma'a Lene, JJ Tupa, George Milo, River Fuluasou, Beaver Touli, Naomi Taegu Mafiti.



Dia dhuit - St Patrick's Day Celebrated

Another cultural recognition celebrated, and initiated by the Student Cultural Committee was for St Patrick's Day, on 17 March.

The Irish Gaelic greeting, Dia dhuit is translated as 'God be with You'. This standard Irish greeting phrase reflects the country's religious history.



The first Ako class to send through correct answers to the ten questions gained the prize. This was won by Ako teacher Sarah Bartlett's Year 9 class, with the prize being a packet of sweets for the whole class to share.

Try a couple of these questions – and google the answers.

- What year is St. Patrick's Day declared to have honoured someone?
- What is the mythical creature that is associated with St Patrick's day?

All Ako classes were provided with links to a slideshow, which had information, pictures and answers to the quiz questions in the text. The answers were sent through via another link.



Congratulations

South Island Powerlifting Title for Ollie Bubb

Year 13 student Ollie Bubb competed in the South Island Powerlifting Championships in Queenstown, on Saturday 27 May, coming away with the South Island Champion Title.

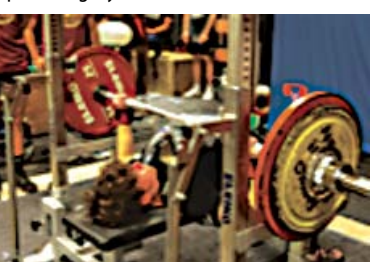
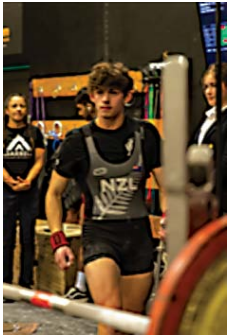
Competing in the Under 74kg sub-junior (18 years and under) category, Ollie's 485kg total was made up from the Squat of 165kg; Bench – 102.5kg; and the Deadlift – 217.5kg.

Over the weekend competitions were held over the Sub-Junior, Junior, Open and Masters categories.

(Pictured right): Ollie moving up to address the bar in the Squat event.

(Pictured below, left): Ollie in the bench event.

(Pictured below, right): Raising the bar in the Squat category.



Confirmed Selection to Junior and Sub-Junior World Powerlifting Championships

Although Ollie knew that his lifts through the season had met the benchmark for selection to the above event, he was very pleased to have recently received an email from the New Zealand Powerlifting Federation confirming his place in the New Zealand team.

The Championships are being held in Romania in August of this year, with the Opening Ceremony taking place on 24 August, while Ollie competes on 30 August. The New Zealand competitors travel to Romania individually, but stay in Romania as a team.

Ollie said he has no further events pending prior to the Worlds, aside from lots of training. Most of this takes place in Ashburton, although he will travel to Christchurch once every few weeks. Ollie is distance-coached by Auckland-based Jason Clarke.

Training is a 5-day a week programme, consisting of Squat and Bench on Mondays; Upper Body Accessory (strengthening) Day on Tuesdays; a rest day on Wednesdays; Deadlift and Bench on Thursdays; Squat and Leg Accessory (strengthening) on Fridays; while Saturdays bring all three disciplines – Squat, Bench and Deadlift – together. The week concludes with Sundays being the second rest day. Ollie trains mostly at City Fitness in Ashburton; and once a month at Body Core, Christchurch.

Coming Events

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

June	
23	Year 9 KIWI Science competition Year 10 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 Mid Canterbury Combined Hockey 2nd XI, Forster Park, Rolleston
24-25	*South Island Secondary Schools' Squash Tournament, Christchurch
25	*Aoraki Netball, Ashburton
27	Year 12 Physics and Science Radioactivity trip, University of Canterbury Junior Boxing Programme, Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy Year 12 Māori ākonga trip, University of Canterbury
28	Postponed – Lip Sync Basketball – Senior Boys and Girls, Junior Boys, Christchurch College A Netball, SuperNet Competition, Christchurch Rugby Girls' 1st XV vs Craighead Diocesan School, at Methven (5:00pm) Rugby Girls' Under 15 vs Craighead Diocesan School, Pleasant Point (4:45pm)
29	Cancelled - Girls' Exchange v Rangiora High School, Rangiora
30	Aoraki Ball, Football, Timaru 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 Mid Canterbury Combined Hockey 2nd XI, Forster Park, Rolleston
Final day, Term Two	
July	
01-02	*South Island Secondary Schools' Road Cycling Race, Christchurch
02	Smallbore Rifle Shooting, Ashburton
02-05	Year 9A South Island Secondary Schools' Junior Netball Tournament, Hagley Courts, Christchurch Year 10A South Island Secondary Schools' Junior Netball Tournament, Hagley Courts, Christchurch
03-14	July Term Break