

## **Cultural Blues assembly for 2015**

**These are awarded for excellence across a wide range of cultural and artistic disciplines, including both the performing and visual arts. This year, there are eight blues recipients.**

### **Debating**

#### **Louis Jennings**

Louis has been a key member of the McGlashan debating team since he was a junior student. He has competed for the school at the Russell-McVeagh Otago-Southland championships, and was selected for Otago to compete in the South Island championships. During these competitions, Louis has been named most promising speaker, been one of the top-ranked speakers in terms of consistent high individual scores, and was part of the McGlashan senior team which finished runner-up in the Dunedin Secondary Schools Competition. Louis has also taken a leadership role in terms of service, leading Year 12 debating at the school, coaching junior debating, and co-ordinating senior debating under the supervision of Mr. McGilchrist.

### **Music**

#### **Luke Nie**

Luke is a highly-accomplished classical musician. He plays 1<sup>st</sup> violin for the Dunedin Youth Orchestra, and has performed many times at school, for the Dunedin Secondary Schools Musical Festival, and selected University of Otago concerts. He was named one of the most promising performers in competition in 2014, and has competed in the South island finals of the NZ Chamber Music Contest. Luke has passed his Trinity College exams at Grade 8 for violin, with a score of 93/100, gaining distinction, which is no mean feat. In terms of service, Luke also provides voluntary tuition during Saturday morning music lessons.

### **Pipe Band**

#### **Sam Darling - Endorsement**

Sam is the current Pipe Major for the school band, which is in hiatus. This role has a dual function. Firstly it is to lead the band in performance, but also to

assist the band director with music selection and overall music direction. He is a senior member of the Foundation Youth Pipe Band of New Zealand, and has taken roles in the Youth Band in regards to arrangement and harmony. He has travelled to Canada and the United States with the band, and has most recently been involved in their South Island Tour. Sam was also a member of the City of Dunedin Pipe Band, which won the South Island Grade Two Championships in February, and placed fourth at the National Championships in March. He has been offered a trial with the Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band – current grade one New Zealand champions and tenth best pipe band in the world.

Sam has also succeeded on the solo scene. He has recently placed highly in the 'C' grade and 'B' grade competitions around New Zealand, and has placed within the special Under 21 competitions. Sam recently won the Most Points in C and B Grade at the Otago Centre Solo Piping Championships – a rare feat.

Sam often provides assistance to younger members of the band, and has conducted lessons on behalf of the band director. . He has been a tremendous asset to the band and has led by example at every stage.

### **Michael Sewell**

Michael is the side drummer for City of Dunedin Pipe Band Grade 2, and has been in the band for three full seasons. This band is Otago's highest rated Pipe Band, competing in a grade higher than the currently in-hiatus John McGlashan College Pipe Band.

As well as the consistently high level of competition, Michael has shown a strong commitment to the band both in terms of practising during competition season and in the rest period. He is also the second-youngest member of a predominantly adult band.

Michael has sought out opportunities to contribute in terms of service, both in playing at community events for the band, and for the college when required. He has also made a service commitment by assisting the Pipe Band director, when he could have given his time elsewhere.

Most recently, Michael was advised to audition for the Foundation Youth Pipe Band (the equivalent of the NZ U-23 Pipe Band) , with the implication that he would very likely be selected.

## **Visual Arts**

These blues are awarded for a consistently excellent level of achievement across at least two years of the senior school, including Excellence grades for all three external and portfolio standards at Level 2 or above, and a commitment to exhibiting work either within school or in the wider community. The time commitment and consistently high level of achievement required is recognised for the following students:

**Guillaume Bennani**

**William Creighton**

**Jack Spence**

## **Performing Arts**

**Joe Corbett**

Joe is awarded this Blue in recognition for both the breadth of his commitment across a range of disciplines – he has received rep awards for choir, musical, pipe band, debating and drama today alone – but also by performing at a high level across a number of years at the college. Notable highlights have been commendations and awards both in acting and directing at the Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival, lead roles in musicals for McGlashan, Columba and St Hilda's, and being awarded first place three years in a row in the Youth Category of the Robbie Burns Poetry competition. This year Joe read his winning entry 'Thank Ye Rabbie Burns' at the welcoming ceremony for the Scotland cricket team to Dunedin before the ICC Cricket World Cup. Joe has also been the school's youth ambassador to the Fortune Theatre in 2015.