



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 1
9 February 2023

News

Message From The Principal

Warm Welcome

Firstly, and most importantly, a warm welcome to all our new families, staff and students who have joined us at Ashburton College. We are happy to have you join our region and school.

Holiday Changes

Sometimes fate can provide unexpected benefits. We were due to spend new year on a yacht up in Auckland/Coromandel. However, after an unexpected injury to a crew member the yachting was unavailable and we stayed with whānau in Arrowtown instead. Down South we had stunning weather, where up North on a yacht would have been nasty.

Return to School

We are back into school mode now and, like all Principals, I'm wishing for a year free from disruptions. Unfortunately, many of my Auckland colleagues have had this hope already dashed.

Developments

It is good to be able to now bring you up to speed with various developments:

• 2022 NCEA Results

Our 2022 NCEA results were on a par with our previous high levels of academic achievement. This was a relief given the level of disruption we faced to teaching and learning in Terms 1 and 2. Our positive results applied to all our ethnic groups with a pleasing improvement in Māori student achievement across the board. When national data becomes available (shortly) I will share our results as they sit against the national comparison. I acknowledge the efforts of many staff who put in the extra effort to help some of our students over the line.

• Year 13 Leadership Camp

We had fifty-eight Year 13 students attending Leadership Camp at Mt Hutt Lodge in the week before school began, for a three-day programme provided by outside facilitators. This was made affordable for attendees due to the generosity of Lion Foundation funding. The students involved go on to lead or be a part of our Student and House Executives.

• Coaching Course

We have been fortunate to secure some Ministry of Education funding to support a new development for our Year 12 students. This will enable the bulk of this year group to undertake a coaching course that develops them as learners and also enhances their future leadership potential. Even if these students don't return to College next year, they will be better placed to be effective contributors to Mid Canterbury.

• New Build

Our new build is well underway and the final concrete pours for the Rangitara Block are due for completion by early February, and the erection of the steel portals is well underway. It was brilliant to see the next stage begin, with this block due for completion by mid-November.

• Visit to Hakatere Marae/College Pōwhiri

For our first Staff Only Day our staff travelled out to the Hakatere Marae and I would like to acknowledge the Marae committee for their welcome and hospitality. Our College Pōwhiri was held on Thursday 02 February, during which our existing staff and Year 13 students welcomed our Year 9 students and our new staff to our campus.

2023 Start

We have had a fantastic start to the year and plenty to look forward to this term. The first major College event will be our Athletics Prelims Day scheduled for Friday 17 February. This is always a popular day which launches our House competition and sees participants and staff dressed up in House colours.



Ross Preece
Principal - Tumuaiki

Staff – Welcome



Vanessa Egleton
Learning Support
Assistant, Mainstream



Ahmed Elattar
Teacher of
Mathematics



Almedina Elkasovic
Student Teacher –
for six months,
from Germany



Stephen Garton
Teacher of Music



Ellie Hammond
Teacher of Science



Sean Hewett
Teacher of English



Adrian Hubbard
Teacher of Health and
Physical Education



Amanda Jones
Gateway/Trades
Co-ordinator, returning
to Ashburton College.



Brian Jones
Head of Faculty,
Technology, returning
to Ashburton College.



Melanie King
Learning Support
Co-ordinator



Tania Lousich
Counsellor in Training,
returning to
Ashburton College



Marie Maeva
Learning Support
Assistant, Kōhanga



Jason Robinson
Teacher of
Social Studies



Bethany Salisbury
Teacher of English



Helen Stamps
Teacher of Arts



Kate White
Teacher of Te Reo

Coming Events

February	
13-14	Canterbury Secondary Schools' Senior Tennis
16	Aoraki Tennis, Ashburton
17	College Athletics Prelims Day
18	Touch Canterbury, Christchurch
20	Postponement day - College Athletics Prelims
21	AshColl v Mt Hutt College, 1st XI, Ashburton
22	Orientation morning, College Chessboard (10:45am-11:25am)
	Canterbury Show Hunter Show Jumping, McLean's Island, Christchurch

24	Handball Projekt, AshColl
25-26	South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis, Christchurch
28	College Athletics Finals
01	Inter-schools Equestrian, Pleasant Point
02-03	Year 12 Outdoor Education Hike, Pinchgut Hut, Okuku Range
03	Year 12 History trip, Akaroa
03-05	South Island Secondary Schools' Mainland Volleyball, Christchurch
05	Aoraki and SISS Triathlon-Duathlon Championships, Oamaru
08	One Day Horse Show, McLean's Island, Christchurch
10-12	South Island Secondary Schools' Meridian Rowing Championships, Lake Ruataniwha

Information

Orientation Morning

Activity Displays/Exciting Opportunities for Students to become Involved

Wednesday 22 February

College Chessboard, 10:45am – 11:25am

On this day students have the opportunity to view forty-five to fifty display stands of activities available, through the College and community groups, and register interest in what they might like to be involved in during this year, and beyond. College welcomes and encourages students joining in College life, and Orientation Day provides a great chance to see the wide range of activities on offer.



Parents and caregivers might like to encourage their student to consider how they could become involved in the many opportunities offered by the College and Community Groups who contribute to the life and work of the College.

Events

New Staff Induction / Teacher Only Days

New Staff Induction

The nineteen new staff joined three former staff, two of whom were appointed later last year and one who was moving from a Support Staff role into a teaching role.

The programme extended from 8:45am-3:30pm across a range of initial introductions/'need to know' information to get started at College. The two subsequent Teacher Only Days added information and opportunities to become settled in and learn about processes.

For these staff, a weekly lunchtime professional development session during Term One further supports the induction process, by covering a range of topics in more depth. An induction process is also arranged for staff joining us at times through the year.

The programme on Monday 30 January included meeting the Senior Leadership Team members and gaining a brief overview of their portfolios; self-introductions; and introduction to key processes and systems including the AshColl Way and activities provided through the Hauora Komiti; meeting with the Specialist Classroom Teacher, Learning Support Co-ordinator and on-site IT Technician, plus gaining some important IT information on our Kamar Student Management System, and an overview of the College's Pastoral system.

New staff are each allocated a buddy, as a 'go-to' person, most specifically through Term One and, on the Monday, this connection started with a tour around the College's various blocks and spaces.

Prior to the tour Matua Tiipene Philip welcomed the group and presented a very interesting and meaningful descriptor of the origins and meanings of the carvings at our Whare Wānanga.



(Pictured above): Tiipene Philip, Head of Department Māori, speaking with the group, in front of the Whare.

The balance of the Induction Day was spent with respective Heads of Faculty/Departments or Teachers-in-Charge/Line Manager.

Staff – Welcome

As is often the case at the start of a new school year it is our great pleasure to welcome new staff to the College. A New Staff Induction Day for these teachers was held on Monday 30 January, followed by their involvement in the Teacher Only Days on Tuesday 31 January and Wednesday 01 February.

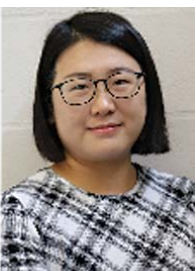
This year we welcomed fourteen new staff, including three returnees to College, as pictured below, and two Counsellors in training (one of whom is a returnee).



Lisa Anderson
Counsellor in Training



John Cook
Head of Junior School



Chan Deng
Teacher of Science



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Staff Only Days

These were held on Tuesday 31 January and Wednesday 01 February, beginning on the Tuesday with a welcome onto the Hakatere Marae for all staff, organised by members of the Hakatere Marae Komiti – Michelle Brett, Henare Cairns, Liz Carrick, Tiipene Philip, Kate White.



(Pictured above): Staff being welcomed onto the Marae by Kaikaranga Michelle Brett.

The two hours spent at the Marae incorporated reciprocal whenua and manuhiri greeting speeches/kōrero inside the whare, followed by morning tea and a presentation by Tiipene Philip.

Staff then returned to College, with all staff briefed on various updates and processes for 2023, followed by teaching staff undertaking Ako preparation; while from 5:00pm on a full-staff barbecue was held for partners and families.

(Pictured right): Staff information/updates session in the staffroom.



Wednesday had staff return to the staffroom for cross-curricular work, and Faculty time in the afternoon.

Successful Student Leadership Camp

As outlined in the Principal's Commentary, fifty-eight Year 13 students took part in the three-day 2023 Leadership Camp programme.

Day 1

Students arrived on-site at Ashburton College at 10:00am and started their programme with the welcome, introductions and orientation; before moving into Framing-Up Camp team-building exercises in Houses.

Framing up Camp in House Groups

This gave expectations of what to expect, an overview and purpose of the camp; including the mantra to 'Slam It' – giving 100%, and looking at what leadership is; goal-setting and what students wanted to achieve over the three days.

Activities

Blue and Green House students then departed for Washpen Falls, the Giant Swing and High Ropes, alternating the activities while Orange and Red Houses were assigned to Rogaine (an orienteering sport of long-distance navigation involving route planning and navigation between checkpoints, using a variety of map types) and Creek Walking.

Teacher Head of Orange House Pete Lee tells us that Orange House began a rogaining exercise before beginning on a river walk which was destined to include a bush-bash up a hill, but the group was curtailed by a wasp swarm that resulted in quite a few stings for some of the students! Subsequent to this, a quick trip back to base camp became the next task!

(Pictured right, front to back):

River crossing the safe way, Jack Templeton and Laura Winchester, and Amelia Harris and Alexia Wilson, getting closer to meeting Sonia, the instructor, on the other side!

Evening

The programme after dinner covered tips and tricks for public speaking and presentations, discussing leadership roles available for students, and preparing speeches for the student leadership roles. Principal Ross Preece spoke with the students on leadership and public speaking and then it was lights-out at 11:00pm.

Day 2

At 5:45am (!) the students who were willing and able took part in a body balance class led by Alexia Wilson while, starting from 6:30am, House groups undertook their assigned breakfast and lunch preparation duties. Following breakfast, Staff House Leaders facilitated Workshops on Running a Committee and Conflict Resolution.

These were followed by team-building activities in small teams; listening and communication activities and three lines of communication exercises (including Mouse Trap, Maze, Drawing Image, Blind Shapes and Walk, Trust Run, Minefield); students being designated a leadership role and receiving feedback from peers; students reflecting on the type of leader they are and learning some aspects of leadership that could help them during the year.

(Pictured right): Orange House success at building their human pyramid.

(Tier 1, left to right):

Amelia Harris, Henry Thomas, Oliver Davies, Cedrick Orena, Andreea Ciora and Charlotte McKenzie.

(Tier 2, left to right): Alexia Wilson, Laura Winchester, Georgie Poole, Sarah Wilson, Alice Homer.

(Tier 3, left and right): Alia Forrester, Amy Waldron.

(Top tier) Jack Templeton.



(Pictured left): All students undertaking a team work activity, moving water from the tap up the hill to a bucket at the bottom of the hill.

House groups had undertaken the reverse activities to what they had been involved in on day one, before returning to the lodge for dinner, preparation for the next day's activities and presenting speeches for nominations for the positions of House Co-captains and Student Executives.

Pete said that listeners were treated to some really meaningful and well thought-out orations from our students.

Again it was lights out at 11:00pm, with some tired people all-round!

Pete noted that the ropes course and big swing was terrifying for all involved but resulted in such a huge amount of confidence and self-belief for those who took part and conquered their fear.



(Pictured left): Orange House student, Alice Homer, heading up to the high ropes.

Day 3

Aside from the breakfast duties, lunch preparation and packing personal gear ready for departure, the students took part in an adventure-based learning competition in House groups, undertaking various problem-solving activities and building team culture, which were greatly enjoyed by all. The Head Students then led the crew within their legacy project workshop, after which students voted for their House Co-captains which produced some very close results. All House Co-captains, will be reported on in our next newsletter.

In summary, Pete Lee said there were some very exhausted students (and teachers!) heading back home, albeit with new confidence and friendships alongside an eagerness to lead the school this year. As can be seen, this was a full and challenging programme, but thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the students, with appreciation to the Mt Hutt Lodge staff and College House Leaders Stacey Monk (Blue House), Courtenay Soper (Green House), Pete Lee (Orange House), Georgina Hurley (Red House), College Outdoor Education teacher Luke Martin, Head of Senior School Abbey Bruce, Principal Ross Preece, Deputy Principal Hannibal Ikahiifo and Assistant Head of Senior School Liz Carrick, for their work at the camp with the students.



Pōwhiri Welcome to Manuhiri to College

This annual important event in the culture of the College took place on Tuesday 02 February, in front of the Whare Wānanga.

Welcomed were Year 9 students, new students at other year levels and new staff, all being the manuhiri or visitors.



(Pictured above): The College kapa haka group welcoming the Manuhiri on to the campus, with kaikaranga (Caller) Michelle Brett (back left) of the Hakatere Marae, having called the manuhiri on to the campus.



The group was led forward by Wātene Māori/Māori Warden Henare Cairns, and Paki Johnston representing Whakarātonga iwi.

(Pictured right): The welcome made on behalf of the tangata whenua (hosts), those who have previously been welcomed and who belong to the College, was made in Te Reo by Principal Ross Preece.



This was followed by the tangata whenua singing of the waiata Whakataka te hau, and by a summary from Matua Tiipene Philip, College Head of Māori Department, also speaking on the hau kāinga/school side, and a second Tirotiro ki tau tau.

(Pictured left): Tiipene Philip speaking for the hau kāinga.

(Pictured below): Responding for the manuhiri was Henare Cairns, followed by the manuhiri's waiata Tutira mai.



(Pictured right): The formal welcome on site concludes with the tangata whenua inviting the manuhiri to approach them for hongi.



After the conclusion of the whaikōrero/speeches and supporting waiata/songs Ross Preece then delivered a brief translation in English, summarising the welcome to all newcomers and confirming them as now being officially part of the Ashburton College community.

Ross referred also to the taonga/treasure that the Whare Wānanga is, particularly in a school setting, being one of few schools nationally to have a Whare with carvings.

The event finished with kai, a barbecue on the grounds under the trees by the College cafeteria, for all involved in the pōwhiri.