



Message From The Principal

Start of Year

Our year has begun with the 'ankle tap' of Omicron causing us to stumble, rather than leaping, out of the starting blocks. We know that Omicron has arrived in our region, and we are taking all possible precautions to ensure that our school continues to run to the benefit of our students.

Sadly we have had to cancel a whole host of sporting and cultural events. Events such as Prelims Day, House Sports and AshDance are always hugely popular and are important ceremonies to foster House loyalty and the acceptance of others. However, we do understand the need to cancel all of these mass gatherings

Health Safety Steps

In terms of our staff, we are taking all practical steps to ensure their safety and that of their families. All our numerous meetings will now be digital or face-to-face via zoom. This includes staff and department meetings, professional development and even our Senior Leadership team will meet on line, even though our offices are adjacent to each other. We made the call that small meetings could proceed, and we have defined these as the maximum of three people in the room. The only good aspect of these restrictions and cancellations is that the focus for both staff and students should be on teaching and learning as there are no distractions this term.

How to Help Keep our Community Safe

As parents/caregivers you can help us keep your children and our community safe by doing the following:

- Please keep your child at home if they are sick, or members of the household are required to isolate.
- Please ensure your child has a mask and they understand the importance of wearing it, while they are inside, including this importance in the close confines of a school bus.
- Encourage them to be socially-distanced where possible.
- Please notify the College Office if a child is absent and or being tested.

Winter Sports Season

There are a significant number of our senior sports already beginning preparations for the winter season. This includes rugby, basketball, netball and hockey. In terms of summer, our rowers have been training and competing, as have our cricketers. Of course, both of these sports benefit from having competitions outdoors.

New Build

Our new build is underway with the Phoenix Pre-school due to be relocated to their new Middle Road site before the onset of winter. I understand that there have been some delays with this project due to a shortage of some building supplies. The first of our new blocks is ready for consent from the Ashburton District Council. This contains thirty two classroom teaching spaces, and construction is due to start before the end of this year. We await the start of this project with eager anticipation.

Ross Preece
Principal - Tumuaki



Events

Leadership Camp 2022

On Wednesday 26 January a sixty-strong selected group of Year 13 students travelled to Mt Hutt Retreat Lodge for Leadership Camp, through until Friday 28 January. This camp puts students into situations where they learn to work as a team and lead each other through multiple challenges.

Day One:

On arrival the programme covered welcomes, introductions, orientation and room allocations.

'Framing Up Camp'

This was followed by 'Framing Up Camp' - being the expectations, overview, timetable and key outcomes.

Students were then divided into their House Groups, and covered -

- Introductions and camp purpose
- 'Slam-it': Giving 100% Leadership is?
- Goal-setting and what was wanted to be achieved over the three-day camp
- Preparation for the day's programme

Out and about

Blue and Green Houses then departed for Washpen Falls where they undertook activities on the Giant Swing/Low Ropes and High Ropes. Then, for Green House members it was back to the Lodge to prepare dinner. This time Blue House was on wash-up after dinner. These duties were rotated across the three days.



(Pictured above): Blue House member Molly Milmine on the Giant Swing.



The one student in this picture is the hill students were about to bushwalk through - no path, just grit and determination required!

Red and Orange Houses' trip was to Lake Lyndon/Cave Stream where they undertook Rogaine (a Cross-Country navigation sport similar to Orienteering but requiring participants to visit as many control sites as possible within a set time limit), and Creek Walking.



(Pictured left, from front): Anna Gray, Ruby Gray and TC Trusler-Clark, forming part of the Orange House group getting ready to climb up a small waterfall before their bushwalking adventure.

(Pictured below, front to back): Orange House students on the river walk up the Pudding Hill Stream, learning how to safely cross rivers - Eli Orena, Luke Pasion, Henry Wallis.

Orange Staff House Leader, Pete Lee said that inside the facilities students wore their face masks responsibly and diligently, but outside were able to take them off in order to breathe in the clean air and oxygen that they needed on these tough walks.



Red House members getting ready to undertake their Giant Swing activity (pictured left, front row, left to right): Gemma Tapurau, Georgia Hart, Zoe Barry. (Second row, left to right): Riley Sa, Amy McLachlan, Alex Bateman. (At back, clockwise from left): Ngahuia Maeva Max Nicol, Ciara Ross, the two instructors, Millar Newlands, Campbell McBride.

Evening Programme

For teachers and students there was a full session through from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, covering:

- Public Speaking and Presentations (tips and tricks)
- Student leadership roles available (House Captains/Committee leaders/ Executives)
- Preparation of speeches for student leadership roles, with teachers presenting the framework

It can be well seen from Day One's programme that camp is action-packed, with a full programme.

Day Two:

This level of activity and commitment extended into Day Two which started, after breakfast, with 8:00am-8:45am Workshop Sessions on Running a Committee and the Conflict Resolution.

Following this, until 11:00am, were Communication and Team Building Trust activities in small teams, across-Houses. These included Listening and Communication; students being designated a leadership role during the activity and receiving feedback from peers; students reflecting on the type of leader they are and learning some aspects of leadership which could help them for the year.

The afternoon session saw a repeat of Day One's activities at Lake Lyndon/Cave Stream, and Washpen Falls, with each House undertaking the reverse activity to the previous day.

(Pictured right, clockwise from back left): Chinatsu Hunt, Jonathon Kilgour, Instructor (observed); and (clockwise from front) William Wills, Mya Johnston and Ethan Gray studying their map in the Rogaine exercise.



Back at the Lodge that evening, speeches were presented and nominations made for House Captains and Student Executives.

Day Three:

The final day started with an optional morning run, followed by the requisite lunch preparation, packing up gear and cleaning rooms.

This was followed, from 9:00am-11:00am, by an Adventure-Based Learning Competition comprised of various problem-solving activities designed to support 'Team Culture'.

Prior to lunch, delivered and presented by the Head Boy and Girl, was the session: 'Legacy Project' - What Achievements Do You Want To Leave Behind? This has become an annual, traditional approach, as students determine what legacy their year level wants to leave for the College into the future.

Following the final clean-up and loading of gear into the mini vans there was a review of the camp and goals set, aspects learnt and an Award Ceremony. As can be seen, this is a full, worthwhile and challenging programme. Important was defining in each group what a leader is, what they do and how they achieve results, as opposed to just being the most popular student.

Leadership responsibilities were defined as taking responsibility for self and others; being able to motivate, communicate well, build rapport, facilitate learning, support direction and equality.



(Pictured above, left): Red House making good work of the Pudding Hill Stream, with Alex Bateman at the front.



(Pictured above right): Matt Pearce jumping for the bar in the Leap of Faith Activity on the second day of the camp. Each student went outside their comfort zones to literally throw themselves off a high platform. Grabbing the bar or not, students really dug within themselves to perform the activity, and each came away with a new sense of pride and confidence.



(Pictured left): Green House members undertaking a water transfer activity.

Information

Ako Meetings/College Closure -

Thursday 10 March

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, plan and set goals, with their Ako teacher and parent/caregiver.

The interviews will be held at Ashburton College, from 10:00am-8:00pm.

Twenty minutes is allocated for each interview.

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

All students-parents/caregivers are expected to attend at Year 9 and 10 levels.

If parents/caregivers of senior students are unable to attend, students themselves are expected to attend their interview.

Please Note - Red Traffic Light COVID protocols will be adhered to:

- Parents/Caregivers are required to scan in on arrival.
- Masks must be worn when in the classroom.
- Social distancing is required in the interview.
- Hand sanitiser will be available for use.

The current intent is that these important interviews will take place. Should national COVID requirements change, this - and any changes - will be advised to families.

The
AshColl
Way



Events



(Pictured above, left to right): Blue House attendees at camp - Stacey Monk (Blue House Staff Leader), Charles Savage (Co-Captain), Molly Milmine (Co-Captain), Lusungu Mbambo, Maddy Young, Caendal Harris, Charlotte Watson, Julianna Apoldo, Amelie Robertson, Jed Amos, Lucas Vainerere.

The other Staff House Leaders were also an integral part of the leadership process at the camp, being Georgia Keenan (Red House), Julia Bell (Green House) and Pete Lee (Orange House), alongside the Instructors, and visits from different leadership staff at different times throughout the three days.



(Pictured above): College's 2022 student leaders on the final day of camp. Students the night previous had spoken to their peers as to why they should be elected as Co-Captains of their House, with every one of them doing an amazing job of covering the criteria asked by the Staff House Leaders.

House Co-Captains 2022

The successful contenders and thus House Captains for 2022 are -

- Blue House** - Molly Milmine and Charles Savage
- Green House** - Mya Johnston and Caleb McNulty-Burns
- Orange House** - Anna Gray and Matt Pearce
- Red House** - Gemma Tapurau and Amy McLachlan

Congratulations go to these students on their success. We will be reporting further, with photos, on Executive and House Committees.

Forthcoming Events

Please note: dates are as at the time of publishing. Alterations, due to COVID traffic light level restrictions will be advised to relevant groups as soon as details are known.

- February**
 - 26-27** SISS Tennis Championships, Christchurch
- March**
 - 02** Mountain Bike Singletracks, Round 1, Halswell Quarry Park, Christchurch
- 03-04** Year 12 Outdoor Education Hike 1, Boundary Creek
- 04** Year 12 History Trip, Akaroa
- 06** Aoraki and South Island Secondary Schools' Triathlon/Duathlon, Oamaru
- 06-08** Otago University Field Trip, Dunedin
- 07** Canterbury Secondary Schools' Golf tournament (tbc)
- 09** Mountain Bike Singletracks Round 2, Halswell Quarry Park, Christchurch
- 10** Mates and Dates Programme
- 11-13** Year 11 Outdoor Education, Lake Hood
- 11-13** AKO Interviews, Ashburton College, 10:00am-8:00pm
- 11-13** South Island Secondary Schools' Meridian Rowing Competition, Lake Ruataniwha
- 15-16** Girls' Cricket Gillette Venus Cup
- 16** Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Ashburton
- 17** Mountain Bike Singletracks Round 3, Halswell Quarry Park, Christchurch
- 17** Mates and Dates Programme
- 17** Postponement Day: Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Ashburton
- 18** Aoraki Girls' and Boys' Volleyball, Timaru
- 18** Postponement Day: Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Ashburton
- 19** Polyfest, Entertainment Triangle, North Hagley Park, Christchurch
- 23** Mountain Bike Singletracks Round 4, Halswell Quarry Park

Cancellations - Activities To Be Advised

As previously advised, many events have had to be cancelled due to not being able to operate these within the COVID traffic red-light constraints.

Information currently re remaining Term One event cancellations is as follows:

- 01 March Athletics Finals
- 09 March Swimming Sports
- 23 March Year 12/13 Tertiary Day

Further Information will be provided regarding:

- Year 8 Information Evening.
- Academic Blues Assembly.
- Cultural events and whether they can be held virtually.

CoDriVR Project at College

Ashburton College is the third pilot South-Mid Canterbury Secondary School, alongside Mackenzie and Roncalli Colleges, to have The CoDriVR Project Driving Simulator installed.

On Wednesday 09 February Lynette Haack, Programme and Events Manager with Ōtepoti-Dunedin-based firm, GFactor, was in College to set up their flagship education simulator for learner drivers in New Zealand.



(Pictured left, left and right): Lynette Haack checking the initial set-up with Year 12 student Alastair Kilgour.

GFactor develops virtual reality software, and have created this programme for a new generation of learner drivers, to give them the skills to handle real-life driving situations without the impact of real-road consequences. The mistakes still feel sufficiently real to deliver a true learning experience, but this programme, of course, comes with a reset button.

A 2015 Waka Kotahi report shows that young drivers are 600%-800% more likely to crash than our safest drivers.

The latest simulator, as installed at College, is designed for teenagers who want to learn how to drive, or to practise their driving, and build their confidence in preparation for their restricted or full driving license test.

CoDriVR is designed to work alongside existing driver programmes, and to provide an effective tool that builds student confidence and competence in driving.

How Does CoDriVR Operate?

It is a learner-led, immersive virtual reality environment where students drive real roads in their region. There are combined audio and visual instructions and encouragement; integrated use of practice, video guides and quizzes to consolidate learning; instant in-headset feedback; progressive learning modules, warm-ups, training sessions and challenges, with all modules fully repeatable. New modules unlock as learners progress.

Five Core Skills to Measure Learner Progress are:

- Visual Awareness
- Speed Control
- Rule Following
- Hazard Perception
- Decision-making

Congratulations

South Island Club Rowing Championships

As outlined in last week's newsletter, below are the remaining results from this regatta, held in Twizel at the end of January, and resulting in a Bronze Medal for the Women's Intermediate Coxed Four.

This was a weekend dominated by the weather again, creating delays in racing with Saturday's events called off before the completion of all heats. As a result, the Sunday timetable started from where the heats concluded on Saturday. The net result of this was the removal of B Finals, and a number of A Finals not taking place.

As a result we have listed outcomes in the heats, as well as the A Finals involving College rowers.

Heats

Heats

Women's Intermediate Coxed Quad Sculls			
Heat 2	3rd	Charlotte Cox, Isabel Wall, Sophie Gibson, Sienna Skilling, Lily Davidson (Cox).	
Heat 1	5th	Ruby Leverton, Isla Connelly-Whyte, Laura Jensen, Mia Chambers, Chloe Braas (Cox).	
Girls' Under 16 Coxed Quad Sculls			
Heat 1	6th	Mia Chambers, Isla Connelly-Whyte, Honor Bradford, Chloe Braas, Lily Davidson (Cox).	
Men's Club Single			
Heat 4	4th	Matthew Pearce.	
Heat 1	8th	Zane Cameron.	
Men's Novice Double Sculls			
Heat 1	4th	Ashton Brook, Jordy McGillen.	
Heat 2	6th	Charlie Howden, Travis Amos.	
Boys' Under 17 Double Sculls			
Heat 2	5th	Henry Wallis, Jed Amos.	
Heat 1	9th	Izacc Carr, Ashton Brook.	
Girls' Under 16 Double Sculls			
Heat 3	6th	Honor Bradford, Leah Reid.	
Boys' Under 15 Double Sculls			
Heat 2	9th	Jordy McGillen, Travis Amos.	
Boys' Under 17 Coxed Quad Sculls			
Heat 1	5th	Henry Wallis, Jed Amos, Izacc Carr, Ashton Brook,	

GFactor will consult with schools on any information they would like to see included as part of the programme in the long-term; and send monthly aggregate data of our students' progress, and information on key trends across the pilot schools.

They will also gather feedback and data from students in order to improve each learning module, to further benefit every learner driver in the community and across New Zealand.

On-Site Application

The timing of student use is managed by the school, with each session taking approximately 15 minutes to complete.

It is College's intent to open this opportunity to all students (Years 9-13), staff and visitors.



(Pictured left): Alastair with the virtual reality headset on, making a start on the simulator.

Appreciation

To Venture Timaru, the Timaru and Ashburton District Councils and Fulton Hogan for supporting this provision of a free simulator, licenses for students and unlimited access for three years, into Mid and South Canterbury schools.

This is an amazing contribution to such a programme which should potentially achieve such real and positive outcomes; including helping to remove barriers to effective driver instruction for young people.

The intent is to provide this programme within all secondary schools in the Mid-South Canterbury region during 2022.

Without sponsored support, this well may not be a viable project.

Women's Intermediate Single Sculls

Heat 3 1st - Isabel Wall.

Men's Intermediate Double Sculls

Heat 1 7th - Izacc Carr, Ashton Brook.

Men's Under 19 Coxed Quad Sculls

Heat 1 5th - Zane Cameron, Henry Wallis, Jed Amos, Matthew Pearce, Lily Davidson (Cox).

Boys' Under 17 Single Sculls

Heat 2 4th - Henry Wallis.

Women's Intermediate Double Sculls

Heat 2 2nd - Charlotte Cox, Isabel Wall.
Heat 3 2nd - Sophie Gibson, Sienna Skilling.
Heat 4 6th - Ruby Leverton, Laura Jensen.
Heat 5 6th - Isla Connelly-Whyte, Leah Reid.
Heat 1 9th - Claudia Thomas, Mia Chambers.

Men's Club Double Sculls

Heat 1 4th - Zane Cameron, Matthew Pearce.

A Finals

Men's Novice Coxed Four

9th - Ashton Brook, Jordy McGillen, Charlie Howden, Travis Amos, Lily Davidson (Cox).

Men's Club Single

5th - Ged Wall.



(Pictured left, left and right): Men's Under 17 Double Sculls - Jed Amos and Henry Wallis (Stroke).

(Pictured right): Men's Club Single Sculls - Zane Cameron.

