



### Message From The Principal

#### Term Four is Underway

We are back up and running for the final term of the year and, particularly for our senior students, there are now nine (Year 13) and twelve school days (Years 11 and 12) of lessons before they depart for exam leave.

Many of our Level 1 and 2 students may have already gained the necessary credits to gain their qualification for this year and thus may struggle for motivation to study for the external exams.

It's certainly a far cry from the old days of School Certificate where everything was based on a single exam result and the system was set up so that 50% of candidates had to fail.

#### Election Week

This week we have the election to decide on the Government for the next three years. Sadly, whatever the country decides as a collective will have a significant impact on New Zealand schools.

One of the biggest frustrations for schools is that they are used as political footfalls by political parties as they seek our votes. Several of these policies are attractive to voters and so parties introduce them, as they sound like a 'vote winner'.

Often, they haven't been thought through as to their impact on schools and learners, nor do they always have any support from research to prove that these policies have worked in other places.

Previously schools had 'national standards' forced on them by the Government of the day. The harsh realities were that they were not nationally moderated, so they had no standard. They didn't produce improved outcomes for learners and there were several years of learners who were told they 'were well below national standards' as they progressed through the primary system. Having this label attached to them didn't improve motivation as they entered their secondary schooling.

In a similar vein there is a proposal to establish 'Boot Camps' for youth offenders. This system has been introduced in several countries overseas and it's failed wherever it has been tried. However, it sounds like a vote winner, so it becomes a policy even though the research shows that they haven't worked previously.

#### Educational Plan

However, there are several countries that have an established **educational plan** that is free of political interference. Malaysia and Singapore are both high-performing economic powerhouses which have adopted well thought-through educational plans with an aim of progressing their country's education system.

Malaysia has a twelve year education blueprint that guides the education path for that period, and schools have the resources to enact these plans and are left to get on with the job. Interestingly, in Singapore, the Minister of Education holds their fourth-ranked position in their cabinet (behind the Prime Minister and their Premier) but still outranks their Minister of Finance.

If our politicians are serious about improving educational outcomes across the country they should solve the issues created by poverty. This issue has a direct flow-on to educational, health, employment and justice outcomes, so it should be the major issue that parties put their focus on.

But, of course, I'm just a school principal so I have lots of ideas but little power to enact change.



Ross Preece  
Principal - Tumuaki

### Congratulations

#### Students of the Week Award

From the Student AshColl Way Committee this week we have the five Student of the Week Awardees, who have exhibited Quality and the AshColl Way theme of 'being organised and prepared'.

The recipients for Week 10, the last week of Term Three were:



Maia Calder  
Year 9



Tegan O'Neill  
Year 10



Ron Walther  
Year 11



Leah Thomas  
Year 12



Sarah Wilson  
Year 13

### Curriculum

#### Science Brain Bee

With highlights by Year 11 students

The New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge (NZBBC) is a competition for secondary school students in Year 11 to learn about the brain and its functions; neuroscience research; to find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses.

The programme was started in 2006 to address a number of deficiencies in the public's perception of science in general, and neuroscience in particular.

Four of our students took part in this event earlier in Term Three and below we read Brain Bee 2023 excerpt highlights of their experiences:

##### Sophia Aguilu

Being able to be a part of the 2023 Brain Bee was lots of fun. We travelled down to Dunedin and visited the museum, then the next day was the actual Brain Bee event.

We got to do things like a team quiz with all the different schools, dissect a sheep's brain, and hear from three students about what they do/study. This was all held at the University of Otago.

There was also a competition to see who could make the best neuron out of pipe-cleaners, and I enjoyed the team quiz even though our team did not place. It was very exciting to see how all the other teams did.

I had lots of fun hearing the three students talk about what they study and what they do. It was very fascinating. I also found dissecting the sheep's brain interesting! I enjoyed learning about the brain, and it was a pretty cool experience overall.

##### Caitlin Collie

This year in July, I was among a team of four students who had the honour of attending and competing in the 2023 Brain Bee competition. In the competition there were three rounds - the first two rounds were completed individually and online, the third and final round was held at the University of Otago.

On the day prior to the competition, we got to Dunedin and were able to explore the museum, the butterfly house and even see a planetarium show.

On the day of the competition we were provided with activities such as the dissection of a sheep's brain and looking at different cells up close under microscopes. Three members of the university came to talk to us about the work they were doing in neuroscience and about the overall academic experience in the field of science at Otago.

Although our team did not place in the team competition, I highly recommend the Brain Bee Competition to anyone who enjoys science, as I personally found it to be a very interesting and enjoyable learning experience.

##### Liya Rodriguez

Being given the opportunity to participate in the 2023 Brain Bee held in Otago was a very fun and unforgettable experience. Travelling down to Otago and being able to visit the museum and explore was very fun. Although we didn't place in the actual team quiz, it was still fun competing and looking at the other schools who were also a part of it. I enjoyed the other activities that came with the Brain Bee such as the sheep brain dissection and hearing about what other people who focus on neuroscience do. It was a very fun experience and is something every student would enjoy.

##### Rebekah Clarke

Being able to participate in the 2023 Brain Bee was a very unique experience. This allowed myself and three other students to go to Otago and compete against others. We didn't only compete, but also learned about how the human brain is similar to a sheep brain and also about some of the University of Otago graduates' research.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Otago Museum and explore the museum, and watch an astronomy show as we whizzed through space.

We concluded the event by having a group competition as a singular competition, where competitors were determined before the event through the Education Perfect online programme. Overall, this was a fun and interactive experience.



(Pictured left, front to back):  
Undertaking the sheep  
brain dissection process are  
Liya Rodriguez,  
Sophia Aguilu, Caitlin Collie  
and Rebekah Clarke.



(Pictured right, left and right):  
Sophia Aguilu and Caitlin Collie  
behind the microscope.

### Congratulations

#### Winter Sports Tournament Week

As has been outlined in previous newsletters, College had eleven teams competing across the above pinnacle week, in venues throughout the South Island.

In this newsletter we look at further results, including the Gold Medal performance of the Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team.

**Gold Medal Tournament for Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team at New Zealand Hockey Association Secondary Schools' Audrey Timlin Tournament.**

This was a triumphant tournament for this team, playing in the New Zealand Hockey Association Secondary Schools' Audrey Timlin Tournament in Nelson.

Thirteen teams contested this Tier 3 tournament, held in Nelson from Monday 28 August-Friday 01 September.

After winning the Canterbury Division 1 Secondary School Girls' competition for the season, the players headed away to tournament determined to do well. Their goal was to make the top 2, after finishing 3rd in 2022.

Both on and off the field, the girls were a credit to Ashburton College and worked hard to ensure a great team spirit, and with the seven Year 13 students being great leaders and role models.

Coach Joanne Wakelin said they were absolutely delighted (and exhausted) to come away with the Gold Medal.

Looking at their results and the nervous physical and mental energy involved in the outcome of games won on shoot-outs, the team, their management and supporters should feel more than delighted with their hard-fought outcome.

#### Game results were:

##### Pool play:

The team had wins against Rolleston College (6-1), and Gisborne Girls' High School (4-1). These two wins put the team at the top of Pool B.

##### Cross-over play:

This brought a win over Burnside High School, with a 2-0 result.

##### Semi-final play:

This is where life became tighter score-wise, with the match against Pukekohe High School resulting in a 2-all draw, and won by AshColl on shoot-outs, 4-1.

##### Final

The final against Marlborough Girls' High School, also resulted in a draw (2-all) and, as with the semi-final, was won on shoot-outs, this time with the closest of outcomes at 4-3 to Ashburton College.



(Pictured right): Caitlin Collie defending in the game against Pukekohe Girls' High.



The victorious team (pictured above, back row, left to right): Joanne Wakelin (Coach), Bree Greer, Caitlin Collie, Leah Doig, Olivia Muir, Laura Cameron (Vice-Captain), Rosa Armstrong, Laura Walsh, Alia Forrester, Rose Vannini, 'Mascot Ferg Wilson'.

(Front row, left to right): Honor Bradford, Holly-Jayne Feutz, Lily Davidson, Emma Lill (Captain), Malaika Dunlea, Laura Stanley, Sarah Wilson (Vice-Captain), Todd Cameron (Manager).

Alex Cameron was the team's other Manager, and assumedly photographer on this occasion!

#### Appreciation

A special mention is made to the seven Year 13 girls - Laura Cameron, Lily Davidson, Leah Doig, Alia Forrester, Emma Lill, Laura Walsh, Sarah Wilson - who have been with the team throughout their five years at College.

Their commitment and pride in their team was always outstanding. They are very skilled players who were happy to share their knowledge and love of the sport.

Another mention goes to Year 9 student Laura Stanley who was called into the team late, which is always challenging, but she played above herself and fitted into the team both on and off the field so well.

In conclusion, a big thanks goes to our wonderful Managers Alex and Todd Cameron who have given so much to this team throughout the season. Ashburton College also acknowledges the sterling work put in by Coach Joanne Wakelin.



### Congratulations

#### Boys' 1st XI Johnson Cup Tournament Week Hockey

This was also played in Nelson, from Monday 28 August-Friday 01 September.

##### Game 1

Manager Jason Vannini said that, this year, the tournament consisted of two pools of five teams each, with College having a tough game first up against local team Marlborough Boys' College. Marlborough put in an early goal in the first quarter and although College pushed hard the team could not equalise.

Marlborough scored another goal in the second quarter to run away with the game 5-0 by the end.

##### Game 2

The team had a second game on the Monday against a strong Dunstan High School side. After a tough first quarter the score sat at 1-all, but with goals from **Hamish O'Reilly, Tom Ellis and Lachie Jemmett**, AshColl finished to win by 3-1.

##### Game 3

Played on Tuesday this was against Nayland College, who were the weakest in our pool, gaining a 4-0 victory. **Lachie Jemmett** scored again, and the potential was there to score further but they became, instead, close misses.

##### Game 4

Played on the Wednesday, the last pool play fixture was basically a knockout game to see who would make the semi-finals. College scored early against Auckland's Kristin School but that lead only lasted four minutes before Kristin equalised inside the first quarter.

This was College's best game to date in the tournament, but players couldn't find the back of the net again, and Kristin scored late in the game, to win 2-1.

#### Cross-Over Play

In the first cross-over game, College was drawn against Burnside High School, who College missed playing this year due to cancellation of the Sports' Exchange day.

This was a very close game, but College again struggled to score, with Burnside finishing as winners, 1-0.

#### Final Game of the Tournament

The last game was against Pakuranga College, Auckland, as the 7th v 8th play-off, with the score at 1-all at the end of the first quarter.

College then put in five goals in the second quarter to make the score 6-1 at half-time, and eventually winning 6-4, to place 7th from the ten teams.

#### Overall

Jason noted that this was a tough tournament, with the 2-1 loss to Kristin hurting College's chances. Kristin went on to win the tournament.

The team was well-led by **Captain Hamish O'Reilly, and coached for the third year by Ryan Hampton**. The team had great support from parents, so Jason 'didn't have to do too much', he said, and he had great parent help from **Paul Cannan** also.

**Team members for the tournament were** - Caleb Armstrong, Joshua Cannan, Tim Connelly-Whyte, Nic Dalgety, Harrison Doak, Jack Ellis, Tom Ellis, Lachie Jemmett, Braden Luxton, Mitchell Lye, Hamish O'Reilly, Sam Orr, Will Rollinson, Tom Rosevear, Henry Thomas, Taylor Wilson.

### Basketball

Four College Basketball teams contested their grades in Dunedin, playing at the Edgar Centre Sports Complex. In this newsletter we report on the Senior and Junior Girls' Tournaments.

#### Senior Girls' Basketball

The College Senior Girls' team competed in the AA Secondary Schools Premiership Zone 4, held at the Edgar Centre in Dunedin from Thursday 31 August-Saturday 02 September.

Thirteen teams contested this competition, with Ashburton College finishing 11th from the thirteen teams, gaining two wins and four losses.

This was an excellent tournament for the Senior Girls, providing the opportunity to play against Division One teams.

#### Results

The side beat Otago Girls' and Avonside Girls' High Schools but the best performance was a close 57-65 loss to eventual 4th placed Kaiapoi College. This result was led by **17 points from Lucy Pearce** and **13 from Yazmin Larry**, with the team receiving plenty of positive feedback for their competitive spirit and constructive play.

#### Farewell

The tournament doubled as farewell to two long-serving Ashburton College basketballers, **Lily Williams** and **Laura Winchester** who have represented AshColl for all five of their College years.

#### Girls' Most Valuable Player (MVP)

**Lily Williams** has been the Senior Girls' Most Valuable Player for the last three years, averaging 18 points and 8 rebounds this year.

#### Future Prospects

Prospects for the team are very positive with plenty of youth coming through, led by Year 10 player **Lucy Pearce** (AshColl's Tournament MVP), averaging 16 points in the tournament including 32 in the win over Avonside Girls', and Year 11 students **Yasmin Larry** and **Jorja Abernethy** who, along with Year 12 student **Holly Ngutu**, will create a strong 2024 side.



The Senior Girls' Basketball team (pictured above, back row, left to right): Emma Doig, Tolu Sa Ngutu, Holly Ngutu, Yasmin Larry, Casey Cousins, Angel Spooner, Taylor Lamont.

(Front row, left to right): Lucy Pearce, Lily Williams (Captain), Laura Winchester (Captain), Jorja Abernethy.

Team Coach and Manager were Geoffrey Chapman and Faauma Sa.

#### Junior Girls' Basketball

The College Junior Girls' A Team played in the Basketball New Zealand Junior Secondary Schools' Premiership Zone 4 Competition, also at the Edgar Centre, Dunedin.

The team, although comprised of mostly Year 9 students, competed strongly at the Premierships.

Coach Summer Anderson was extremely proud of the girls' efforts and is looking forward to bringing the young group back again next year.

Seventeen teams contested this grade, with Ashburton College finishing in 13th place from four strong wins and three losses by very acceptable margins.

#### Game results were -

- Game 1: v Avonside Girls' High School (81-29).
- Game 2: v St Andrew's College (60-72).
- Game 3: v St Hilda's Collegiate School (43-50).
- Game 4: v Cashmere High School (44-57).
- Game 5: v Marian College (70-32).
- Game 6: v Christchurch Girls' High School (67-57).
- Game 7: v Rangitikei Girls' School (62-44).



The Team and Coach (pictured above, back row, left to right): Summer Anderson (Coach), Ruby Patterson, Ally Thomas, Georgia Scammell, Isla Gilbert, Isla Moffatt, Chloe Prendergast. (Front row, left to right): Tegan Marriott, Tia Double, Sophie Braas, Kate Cochrane, Lily Rosevear.

Manager was Lisa Rosevear.

### New Zealand Indoor Target Shooting Results

In an earlier newsletter we covered results from the Outdoor Nationals, the 50m international discipline. Provided now are further results, based on the Target Shooting NZ Indoor Nationals (the North-South), hosted by Christchurch with assistance from Mid Canterbury.

#### Target Shooting NZ Indoor Nationals

To compete at this match, shooters must first be selected for their island team (North or South). This occurs through shooting qualifying scores around New Zealand at Open Championships, within a qualification window, and then effectively being selected via their top four matches from the ranking lists.

#### South Island Selection

To be selected for your Island for this match is, in itself, quite an honour. The match encompasses the very best from around New Zealand, including Olympians and World Championships' shooters, some of whom the girls were competing with and against in the Women's match.

#### Competition Format

The format of the weekend is that the island teams compete against each other (for trophies and 'bragging rights') and from the scores on this day, the corresponding New Zealand teams are named. These teams then shoot postal matches against their counterparts from Britain.

#### AshColl Team

Ashburton College had three students competing, which is a very large number for one school, with very few schools represented.

#### Team members were:

- Charlotte McKenzie - South Island Junior (Under 21) and Women's.
- Madi Tourle - South Island Junior (Under 21) and Women's.
- Phoebe McKenzie - Phoebe was on debut for this match, also in the South Island Junior (Under 21) and Women's.

Each of the team members had an excellent qualifying window to each gain selection to two teams.

#### Results

As always, the standard of shooting was extremely high and the matches were very tightly fought. Unfortunately, the South Island was not able to gain any wins over our northern counterparts this year, although the Juniors missed by a very small margin.

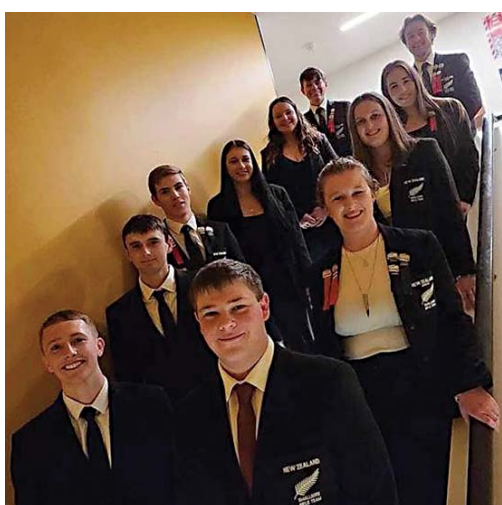
#### Best Results - Selection for New Zealand Junior Under 21 Team for Phoebe McKenzie

Of the Ashburton College shooters, Phoebe McKenzie had the best of the results, shooting a superb match first thing on Saturday morning, which saw her selected for the New Zealand Junior (Under 21) team.

Both **Charlotte McKenzie** and **Madi Tourle** completed some excellent targets across their shoots but, due to some bad luck and very slim margins, they did not miss New Zealand matches on this occasion.

#### Presentations

Formal photos, dinner and presentations were held at the Hornby Club on Sunday night. This was an excellent event, exceptionally well-run by the very capable team from Christchurch Target Shooting Association.



(Pictured above): The South Island Under 21 Team for the Nationals match.

AshColl members are Charlotte McKenzie (second row, right); Phoebe McKenzie (third row, right); and Madi Tourle (fourth row, right).

This event saw the last major physical match for the Indoor season. At that time Mid Canterbury was eagerly awaiting their National District Championship (NDC) final against Auckland.

In our following newsletters we will review subsequent Secondary Schools' outstanding shooting results and national selections.

### Coming Events

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

- 08-14 Fijian Language Week
- 15-21 Niue Language Week
- 16 Lockdown drill
- 16-17 Year 11 Outdoor Education Hike, Mt Thomas Walking Track, Ashley Gorge
- 19 Final Assembly, Chessboard, 10:00am
- 'Shake Down' drill
- 20 Performance Awards and Principal's Certificates presentations, 8:45am-9:00am
- 22-28 Tokelau Language Week
- 23 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 24 Blues Assembly, 12:30pm, Chessboard
- 26 Final day for Year 13 students (refer below)
- Year 13 Graduation Ceremony, Ashburton Events Centre
- 27 Final day for Year 11 and Year 12 students (refer below)
- 28-29 \*SISS Schools' Rugby 7s, tbc
- 31 Year 11 and Year 12 Prize-giving, Ashburton Event Centre (refer below)

#### 2023 End-of-Year Final Days, Prize-Givings, Events

Parents, caregivers, family/whānau, friends and interested community members are most welcome at the Awards Ceremony and Prize-givings.

#### October

- 26 Year 13 students' final day. Students finish at 1:20pm.
- Year 13 Graduation Ceremony, Ashburton Event Centre, 7:30pm.
- 27 Year 11 and Year 12 students' final day.
- Year 12 students finish at 1:20pm.
- Year 11 students finish at 3:05pm.
- 31 Year 11 and Year 12 Prize-giving (Combined), Ashburton Event Centre, 7:00pm.

#### December

- 03 Year 13 Leavers' Graduation Dinner, Hotel Ashburton, arrive at 6:30pm, seated at 7:00pm.
- 11 Year 9 and Year 10 students' final day.
- Year 9 Prize-giving, 5:30pm, Ashburton Event Centre.
- Year 10 Prize-giving, 7:30pm, Ashburton Event Centre.