



# Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 1  
10 February 2022

## News

### Message From The Principal

#### Welcome Back

Welcome back to all returning students and whānau, and an especially warm welcome to newcomers to our school family.

On the subject of families, our thoughts and best wishes are with our Tongan students, many of whom will have kāinga back in the islands.

#### Essentials to Tonga

As a staff we are compiling essential foodstuffs to send to the Kingdom of Tonga. We have decided to gift these to anyone who doesn't have family support in New Zealand or Australia.

We are conscious that there are a number of community fundraising events taking place, including a stall at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 12 February.

#### NCEA Results

Our NCEA results from last year were very pleasing. Our overall pass rates at Levels 1, 2 and 3 were amongst the highest we have had and certainly exceeded those schools of similar decile. These results were in spite of the disruptions caused by COVID and the June floods.

There are always things a school can do better and, for us, the proportion of our students endorsing with *Merit* or *Excellence* was down on previous years. (I do suspect this will be part of a national trend).

#### COVID Impacts

Our hope of a year free from COVID disruptions was dashed before we even got on to our 'starting blocks'. However, we are provided with guidance and regular updates to ensure that Ashburton College is keeping our students and community safe.

**Here are some things you need to know about the Traffic Red Light system and our preparations for an Omicron arrival within our region:**

- Masks are compulsory for staff and students when they are inside and interacting with others. For staff, surgical grade masks are required to be worn. These are encouraged for students but cloth masks are accepted.
- When students or staff are outdoors they will not be required to wear masks, unless they are congregating in small spaces.
- Students are requested to have their own masks. We do have some supplies of masks but supplying our entire student body would obviously be impossible.
- Events which are non-essential have been cancelled or postponed (simply because of the numbers involved). Sadly, this includes Orientation Day, AshDance and House Sports day etc.
- School Sport NZ has indicated that only vaccinated athletes can compete in events.
- Our classrooms are well-ventilated and we are using the external doors to enter and exit, to avoid large numbers congregating in the corridors.
- All our staff are required to have their booster shots.
- Under the red-light setting schools are instructed to stay open, but staff or students who are instructed to stay home, for the mandated length of time. This is a marked change from the previous lockdowns and information has been signalled to all schools.
- Schools are expected to provide face-to-face and distance learning when students are required to be at home. Therefore, it is really important that your child can access online learning before they are forced to stay home.

We are in interesting times and schools and staff are well placed to be flexible and adaptable to meet any new challenges.

Thank you for your support of our College.

Ross Preece  
Principal • Tumuaiki

### 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 31 January, followed by their involvement in the Teacher Only Days on Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 February.

This year we welcomed fourteen new staff, including six returnees to College, as pictured below.



**Dave Clark**  
Head of Department  
Agriculture/Horticulture



**Alice Clark**  
Teacher of English



**Amy Dean**  
Teacher of English



**Jonah Drye**  
Teacher of  
Physical Education



**Alister Emerson**  
Head of Faculty Arts



**Kate Gilbert**  
Teacher of Visual Arts



**Shauhrat Gill**  
Teacher of Science



**Hannibal Ikahihifo**  
Deputy Principal



**Joshua Johnson**  
Teacher of Mathematics



**Duncan McKee**  
Teacher of Science



**Oliver McKeown**  
Teacher of  
Physical Education



**Patrick Neal**  
Teacher of Automotive/  
Hard Materials



**Cheyenne Parris**  
Teacher of English



**Josh Sim**  
Teacher of  
Social Sciences

### Staff - Returning to College

The following staff were at College during various parts of 2021, either in fixed-term or regular relieving positions. Not having been a part of this year's beginning-of-year induction they were included in this year's day. We are very pleased to welcome them fully to our staff at the start of this year.



**Ashleigh Arras**  
Learning Support  
Assistant  
Te Whare Manaaki



**Mieke Brook**  
Teacher of  
Mathematics



**Murrin Buller**  
Learning Support  
Assistant  
Mainstream



**Leigh Heaney-Lee**  
Teacher of  
Social Sciences



**Mandy Isaacs**  
Teacher of Food and  
Hospitality



**Tina Johnson**  
Teacher,  
Te Whare Manaaki

### Also Returning to College are –



**Renae List**  
Teacher of English



**Kirsty Fortune**  
Learning Support  
Assistant,  
Te Whare Manaaki



**Tevita 'Asi**  
Teacher of  
Mathematics

### Staff - Internal Appointments

Additionally, there have been a number of internal staff appointments made from the end of last year and involving a change of, or additional, portfolios.

<b>Julia Bell</b>	Head of Department, Dance.
<b>Jess Bennett</b>	Careers Co-ordinator.
<b>Claire Bubb</b>	Head of Department, Drama.
<b>Sarah Cadman</b>	Kamar Administration, Timetable team.
<b>Mandy Harrison</b>	Teacher Relief/Cover Co-ordinator.
<b>Rob Isaacs</b>	Acting Head of Faculty, Technology.
<b>Georgia Keenan</b>	Acting 3IC, English.
<b>Marg Macpherson</b>	Assistant Head of Faculty, English.
<b>Angela Mitchell</b>	Culture Review and Growth Coaching.
<b>Jason Vannini</b>	Senior School Dean.

### Hakaterere Community of Learning/Kāhui Ako: Within-School Teacher Roles

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning are groups of education and training providers that come together, along with their communities, to raise achievement for all tamariki and young people – by supporting each other and sharing expertise in teaching and learning (ako).

**Ashburton College is part of the Hakaterere Kāhui Ako, with the following staff members appointed to within-school roles.**

<b>Liz Carrick</b>	Within School Hakaterere Kāhui Ako role: Foundation Studies Co-ordinator.
<b>Vicky Poole</b>	Within School Hakaterere Kāhui Ako role: PaCT (Assessment Tool), across Curriculum.

### Information

#### Ashburton College Office Hours: 2022

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 8:00am – 4:30pm  
Wednesdays: 9:00am – 4:30pm  
Fridays: 8:00am – 4:00pm.

**Please note the Wednesday office opening time change (from last Wednesday, 09 February 2022).** This is to allow staff to attend staff professional development.

#### College Uniform Clothing Shop

This is operated through the College Office during office hours, or by request.

Families and students are welcome to view items of clothing (second-hand, good quality).

**Please note:** Under the current red traffic-light setting we are only able to accommodate one family at a time in the shop. Appointments are not required, but be aware there may be a slight delay on occasions.

We also welcome good quality, clean second-hand clothing to sell on your behalf.



# Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 1  
10 February 2022

## News

### Staff - Welcome

#### Te Whare O Tawhaki Carvings and Whakatauke

As part of the Induction Day programme for new staff Matua Tiipene, Head of Department Māori, met with the staff.

In the absence of our full-College traditional pōwhiri due to COVID Traffic Red Light restrictions, Tiipene was able to greet our new staff with a Whakatauke.



(Pictured above): Tiipene Philip greeting the manuhiri, with Whakatauke.



(Pictured above): Replacing the traditional hongī was the elbow greeting. (Front to back, left): Tangata Whenua Jenni Watson, Tom Kitchen, Tiipene Philip. (Front to back, right): Manuhiri Tina Johnson, Mieke Brook, Shauhrat Gill, Hannibal Ikahihifo and Leigh Heaney-Lee.

Following this Tiipene gave a description of the carvings of Te Whare Wananga (House of Learning), which is always interesting and informative, and appreciated.

As an example of part of the descriptions - for visitors, the first part of the house seen by any visitor is the Mahau or porch. This is seen as an area important to impress visitors, to create an impression of mana and thus enhance the welcome.



As can be seen in the photos, at the apex is the Koruru (head). The Maihi are the arms and, at the end of these are the Raparapa (fingers). Supporting the Maihi are the Amo (legs), with the right side being the symbol of all that is positive and the left being the symbol of the negative forces in life.

The Pare (mouth) is the door and the Matapihi (eye) is the window. Korupe is the carving above the window, while the Tahuhi is the backbone or ridge of the house.

On formal ceremonial occasions the Kawa (format) takes place in front of the Mahau and forms a visual backdrop for the occasion.

### Events

#### Welcome to Year 9 Students –

#### Peer Support Programme

On Thursday 03 February we held Year 9 students annually to the start of their secondary schooling years at College.

To support the settling-in process, Ashburton College annually runs a Peer Support Programme where a group of Year 12 students work alongside the Year 9 students, during Term One.

Counsellor and Peer Support Programme Co-ordinator Andrew Shepherd said that there were eighty four Year 12 students preparing for 2022. These students offered their time, which included a two-day training programme on Thursday and Friday 27 and 28 January before their school year began.

Appreciation is given to staff members Andrew Shepherd, Penny Bayley, Jess Bennett, Sarah Cadman, Michelle Hosking, Annie Lees, James List, Kirsty Moffett, Patrick Sandrey and Heena Shah, as key staff leaders of these two days.

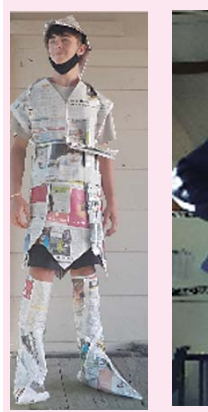
### Events



(Pictured above): Students who had practised making clothing from newspapers, in preparation for facilitating the same group activity with the Year 9 students.

(Back, left to right): Cecilia Vaelua, Freedom-Lee Gleave, Daniel Johnson, Henry Goodes, Eva Kelly, Hani Hurst-Evangelista (partially obscured), Laura Walsh (observed), Sophie Fine, Serena Levy-Marsh, Tāne Moore.

(Front row left to right): Maria Lawn, Laura Cameron, Jack Templeton, Zeahn Otene, Jack Jones, Sama Soiala, Laura Winchester, Amelia Harris.



(Pictured, clockwise from above left): Eddie Galbraith; (left and right): Isabel Wall and Maddy Soal;

(left and right): Mao Nishioka and Janelle Galos.

**Throughout Term One the Peer Support Student Leaders will continue to work with the group of Year 9 students they are responsible for, in the role of both a leader and a friend, helping to grow their communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills.**

#### The Peer Support Programme Aims are about –

- making links between people
- supporting, understanding and accepting each other

#### Day One Programme

Carolyn Clough, Head of Junior School, said that day one for the students went very well, despite a rearranged programme to fit on-site red traffic light requirements.

However, much was achieved for the students, principally in their Ako class groups through which they had guided tours of the College; 'Getting to Know You' activities; received Information Booklets; had their individual photos taken; set up devices; a Health and Safety Power Point briefing; and the Peer Support Programme Period 4.

Without exception students were engaged, polite, followed instructions very well, were up to time and didn't get lost! Staff indicated it was an enjoyable day for all involved.

A huge thank you goes to Carolyn Clough and the Junior team of Hannah Young (Assistant Head of Junior School) and Deans Sue Johnstone, James List and Guy Smith for their work in spearheading this day, and making it so positive for our incoming students; alongside all additional staff who were involved.



(Pictured left): A group of Year 9 boys enjoying an outside break during the day.

### Congratulations

#### Ashburton College Year 9 Academic Scholarship Winner Aryan Saluja



The Year 9 Academic Scholarships were established in 2004 by the Ashburton College Board of Trustees, with up to two scholarships awarded annually. Awardees are selected via two examination tests, one in English and one in Mathematics.

The scholarships are open to any Year 8 student who is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and who applies for entry to Year 9 at Ashburton College in the following year.

One award was gained this year, and allocated at the end of 2021, for the 2022 College year.

Aryan is looking to save his scholarship to put towards future educational costs.

Aryan said he was very excited when he heard he had gained the scholarship, adding that he had tried his best in the two exams but hadn't expected to do that well, believing there were excellent people sitting the exams as well.

### Appreciation

#### Ashburton Long Run Iron

Ashburton College would like to thank Andrew, from Ashburton Long Run, for arranging a generous donation of sheet steel.

This will be used by the College's Technology Department across all year levels, for their various projects.

Acting Head of Technology Faculty and Product Design and Building Technologies teacher, Rob Isaacs, said that Ashburton College is always keen to reuse or repurpose, which enables cutting down on costs - and stretching the budget further to increase benefits to students.



### Forthcoming Events

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

**Information to hand currently re Term One event cancellations is as follows:**

- Full-College Pōwhiri.
- Athletics Prelims.
- Orientation Morning, in its physical layout.
- Athletics Finals.
- Swimming Sports.
- Year 12/13 Tertiary Day.
- AshDance.
- Festival of the Spoken Word.

**Further Information will be provided regarding:**

- Ako Interviews.
- Year 8 Information Evening.
- Academic Blues Assembly.

#### Term Dates 2022 –

<b>Term One</b>		- Thursday 14 April
<b>Term Two</b>	Monday 02 May	- Friday 08 July
<b>Term Three</b>	Monday 25 July	- Friday 30 September
<b>Term Four</b>	Monday 17 October	- Year level final dates to be advised, but final day for Year 9 and 10 students – Thursday 08 December