



### Message From The Principal

#### Community Challenges

Our community is facing a significant challenge as Omicron spreads throughout our region. As a school we face some unique challenges including:

#### Student Absences

High levels of absences by our student body. At the time of writing this newsletter, on Monday 01 March, we had a 25% absence level throughout Years 9-13.

However, of this figure, only 9% were COVID-related (ie: tested positive or a household contact).

The others were either ill or kept away by concerned parents.

#### Work Available for Students

Our staff have work available, for all year levels, online, but they are also required to teach the students who are in front of them at school.

This is a vastly more challenging scenario than we faced under lockdowns.

#### Relief Teachers

Having enough relief teachers to cover staff who are absent - either as positive cases, household contacts, or being required to care for their own youngsters.

We are fortunate to have a pool of relievers, but this resource has limits.

**Therefore we have designed an Emergency Cover Plan (ECP), should it be needed.**

Once this is activated it will allow us to roster home different year levels. In a week -

- Monday - Year 11 at home doing online learning.
- Tuesday and Wednesday - Years 12 and 13
- Thursday and Friday - Years 9 and 10.

The teachers who would normally teach lessons for those year levels will be covering for colleagues who cannot attend work.

**Families will be advised if/when this is activated.**

#### Staff Meetings

We are currently having each type of staff meeting via zoom. These are just not the same but they are necessary to protect each other.

Such meetings are often large and impersonal - eg: all staff, of 140+; but also even small groups are required to be in this meeting format.

Our Senior Leadership Team has five members, all with adjoining offices, but we meet via zoom to prevent all of us being infected at the same meeting.

#### Omicron's Variety of Symptoms

Omicron, in particular, has a variety of symptoms. I have contacted all the families of the students who have tested positive. Some people report being bed-ridden with flu-like symptoms, whilst others have a sore throat or slight temperature and wouldn't have gone to the doctor, except they were tested as a household contact.

The good thing about being the leader of a school at such times is that going of boredom is highly unlikely. Have a great week if you are in a position to do so.



Ross Preece  
Principal • Tumuaki

### Leaving Staff - Appreciation

#### Hannah Kleber

Hannah has been a member of our cleaning team since May of last year, through until mid-February this year. Hannah has been a valued, reliable and helpful employee, appreciated as a good worker always willing to 'go the extra distance'. Her pleasant manner and work ethic has been much appreciated and each of her skills and personality traits will be an asset as she leaves College for her new full-time position. We thank her for what she offered in her time here, and wish her all the very best.

### Events

#### Fashion Friday - Staff Double Denim Day

Certain staff members, who shall remain nameless, decided that in these trying times there was a need for a bit of fun.

Therefore, once a term, a staff Fashion Friday has been instigated.

The first foray into this started on Friday 25 February, and staff were urged to dig into their wardrobes and find their 'trendy' denim pieces.



(Pictured above): A sample of staff members in their Double Denim.

### Events

#### Successful No-Uniform Day Held at College

The Student Executive-led first No-Uniform Day of 2022 was held on Tuesday 01 March with the recipient causes being to support life-changing surgery in Sydney for Year 10 student Taylor Doyle, and Ronald McDonald House.



Taylor is due to leave for Sydney this month for her surgery - at, as with all such opportunities, a significant private cost; in this case - \$35,000. COVID requirements, and health safety needs, have meant family isolation at home in order to protect Taylor and the family from infection, and there will then be an isolation period on arrival in Sydney, followed by her first procedure mid-March, and surgery some days later.

The money raised from College's No-Uniform Day will be allocated half-each to supporting Taylor and to Ronald McDonald House.

(Pictured right): Taylor's family joined in the day by having their own bright clothing event at home, and sending a photo to College.



(Pictured below): At interval on the Tuesday 'bright-colour' photos were taken to send to Taylor to wish her well, plus the good wishes photo from the Student Executive members expressing the thoughts of all, for Taylor.



Donations can still be received on the givetaille page - at:

<https://givetaille.co.nz/cause/help-taylor-eat-again-life?fbclid=IwAR2I3rEhmVHejdZ0sAIN-HaTWNQFM2aRF1rE6xtF9-CN-EWb5S5tFn0>

You may also like to follow Taylor's journey on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gettingontaylorsnerves>

### Congratulations

#### Meridian South Island Junior Regatta

Information provided by Claudia Thomas

Over the weekend of 26-27 February the Ashburton College Rowing Squad travelled to Twizel to race in the above regatta, held on Lake Ruataniwha.

The regatta was originally scheduled to be held at Lake Hood, as the Canterbury Junior Regatta, but due to COVID restrictions was moved to Twizel. On this occasion the overall weather was good, meaning the whole regatta was able to be completed without any interruptions.

There were twenty five College boats racing in heats, with nineteen of these in finals on the Sunday. Ten crews contested the A Finals and nine, B Finals.

#### Results Gained Were -

##### A Finals

Boys' Under 17 Single Sculls 7th

Henry Wallis.

Girls' Under 16 Single Sculls 7th

Sophie Gibson.

Boys' Under 18 Coxed Quad Sculls 5th

Jed Cameron, Henry Wallis, Zane Amos, Matthew Pearce, Chloe Braas (Cox).

Girls' Under 16 Coxed Quad Sculls 9th

Mia Chambers, Sienna Skilling, Chloe Braas, Leah Reid, Lily Davidson (Cox).

Boys' Under 18 Single Sculls 7th

Zane Cameron.

Boys' Under 18 Novice Coxed Four 6th

Matthew Pearce. Ashton Brook, Jordy McGillen, Travis Amos, Charlie Howden, Lily Davidson (Cox).

### Appreciation

#### Vintage Car Club - Superb Donation to College Automotive Class

Ashburton College has recently received a Morris Minor for one of their Automotive classes. The car has been generously donated through the Ashburton Vintage Car Club, by member Trevor Begg.

Ashburton College started an Automotive Course last year, under the guidance of former Acting Head of Faculty Kyle Backhouse-Smith, with Workshop Technician Daniel Tew.

We have been most fortunate to be able to continue this into this year, with the arrival of Patrick Neal as Teacher of Automotive and Hard Materials, and with Daniel's skill continuing.

This year we have three Automotive classes running, two at Year 12 and one at Year 13 levels; each with their own specific project.

Patrick advises that College is fortunate to be able to have the MITO (Motor Industry Training Organisation) Course, on-site. Although the MITO course is designed for schools, most schools haven't the facilities to undertake practical automotive work on campus. At Ashburton College, we are fortunate to have the facilities to really engage students.

The courses through MITO are known as Start Up (Year 12) and Accelerate (Year 13), and are an introduction to the motor industry. Once students have completed both levels they can do a Pre-Trade Course at Ara.



(Pictured above, far right, left and right): Trevor Begg and Colin Sweetman of the Ashburton Vintage Car Club who have been instrumental in enabling this fantastic opportunity. Also pictured are members of the eighteen-strong Year 12 Automotive class which will be working on this car.

The Vintage Car Club has also allowed our students to visit their parts shed and hunt for those much-needed parts, available free of charge, to support the restoration of this 1958 model.

This class will be cutting out rust, restoring parts, and doing general servicing and maintenance.

The car's ownership is with the College, meaning the vehicle could potentially be sold, which would allow ability to fund further, more ambitious projects, or fund improvements to our facilities.

We hope the relationship with the Ashburton Vintage Car Club is a long and fruitful one.

This superbly generous and relevant donation and support is more than appreciated, and valued for all that it offers our students.



### Congratulations



(Pictured above, left to right): B Final, 3rd placed, Girls' Under 16 Coxed Quad Sculls: Isabel Wall, Sophie Gibson, Honor Bradford, Isla Connelly-Whyte, Charlie Howden (Cox).

#### Heats

Girls' Under 17 Coxed Four

Heat 1: 5th

Ruby Leverton, Isla Connelly-Whyte, Mia Chambers, Honor Bradford, Chloe Braas (Cox).

Girls' Under 16 Double Sculls

Heat 2: 7th

Mia Chambers, Leah Reid.

Heat 3: 6th

Isla Connelly-Whyte, Chloe Braas.

Girls' Under 18 Double Sculls

Heat 1: 8th

Claudia Thomas, Laura Jensen.

Girls' Under 17 Coxed Quad Sculls

Heat 2: 8th -

Ruby Leverton, Laura Jensen, Honor Bradford, Leah Reid, Lily Davidson (Cox).

#### Gillette Cup Cricket; Play-Off

Ashburton College's 1st XI Boys' Cricket Team played Timaru Boys' High School's 1st XI on Friday 25 February, in their play-off game to establish the team to go forward into the next round of National Gillette Cup knock-out competition.

The Gillette Cup New Zealand Secondary Schools' Cricket Competition is the name given to the annual New Zealand Secondary Schools' boys one-day cricket competition. This event begins as a knock-out competition until the top school in each of six regional zones is determined. These schools then contest a final held in December of each year.

The Gillette Cup began in 1990 and is amongst one of the longest-running competitions in New Zealand secondary school sport. The competition provides the opportunity for players to compete against some of the best school teams in the country with many first-class cricketers and Black Caps having made their name in this tournament.

Teams who enter the Gillette Cup begin by playing in Term One of the school year, within their region against nearby school teams. Teams who are successful through the initial regional rounds then advance to regional finals, with the top team from each region contesting the end-of-year final.

This game involved Ashburton College and was played at the Ashburton Domain, with Timaru Boys' batting first and putting out a message by scoring a well-compiled 245 for 6 wickets in their allotted 50 overs.

Liam Fuller and Millar Newlands were the pick of the bowlers, with Liam's figures at 2 wickets for 21 runs off his eight overs; and Millar taking two wickets for 19 runs off his 6 overs.

Ashburton College batting innings was, however, a little short-lived with the team all-out in the 25th over, for 108.

Liam Fuller, top scorer for College, on 24; and Devon Flannery on 23 were the only batsmen to gain double figures; with credit to the dominance of Timaru Boys' High, who now move forward in the competition.

Many thanks go to Year 10 student Mitchell Lye for stepping into the team to replace injured Eddie Galbraith; and College appreciation to Sports Co-ordinator Darion Gray who took the role of Manager for the day.



The College team (pictured above, back row, left to right): Eddie Galbraith, Liam Fuller, Hamish O'Reilly, Tom Rosevear, Mitchell Leath, Fletcher Hobbs, Seb McMillan.

(Front row, left to right): Mitchell Lye, Sam Orr, Jack Middleton, Lachie Jemmett, Millar Newlands, Devon Flannery (Captain).

#### Successes and Top Honours in Senior Tennis Events - 2022

In this newsletter we look at the tennis events our students have been involved in, and their significant successes.

#### Canterbury Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships

College had six players competing in the Canterbury Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships at Wilding Park, Christchurch over 14-15 February. This is a tournament that is categorised by year levels.

#### Boys' Singles Draw

Although only being in Year 10, two of our players, Drew Gilbert and Jake Parsons, were playing in the Year 11 division alongside Jack Ellis.

Ollie Bubb (Year 12) entered the Year 12/13 Boys' Singles Division.

#### Results - and Second Overall Placing

While Drew Gilbert made it past the first round, it was Jake Parsons who placed second overall, falling to EJ Gonzaga in the Boys' Year 11 singles final.

(Pictured right, on the left): Second place-getter Jake Parsons.



#### Year 11 Doubles - Second Placing

Jack Ellis and Drew Gilbert placed second.

#### Year 12/13 Doubles

Ollie Bubb and Jake Parsons teamed up in the Boys' Year 12/13 Doubles and won their first match, before succumbing to Duncan McCall and Blake Cullen, the eventual winners.

#### In the Girls' side of the draw

Pairing up for the Girls' Doubles, were the Feutz sisters who faced tough opposition, but secured one win from their four matches.

#### Girls' Singles

These proved to be successful, however.

Libby Feutz fell to her opponent in the first round of the Year 11 Girls' Singles while sister, and second seed in the Year 11 Girls' Singles, Holly-Jayne, advanced through to the final.

#### Top Honours

In the final, Holly-Jayne defeated Alex Wylie to claim top honours.

This marks the first time in over thirty years that an Ashburton College student has achieved such a feat.



(Pictured left): Holly-Jayne with her trophy, marking an historical occasion for a College student in this competition.

(Pictured below, left to right): The team of Jack Ellis, Jake Parsons, Drew Gilbert, Holly-Jayne Feutz, Ollie Bubb, Libby Feutz.



#### Aoraki Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships

Held at the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre on Thursday 17 February, College had a successful outing at these Championships, also.

#### Second and Third Placings

Sisters Holly-Jayne Feutz and Libby Feutz teamed up to take second place, with Roncalli College taking out the top spot.

The top AshColl Boys' Team of Ollie Bubb and Jake Parsons were the eventual winners of the boys' side of the draw, beating Timaru Boys' High School 1; while the pairing of Logan Williams and Sam Kingsbury finished third.

#### South Island Secondary Schools Tennis Championships

This event was held at Ngā Puna Wai, in Christchurch over Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 February.

Teacher Michael Clark said that, despite Covid seeing reduced numbers of teams participating, nonetheless the big guns came out to play.

This was a tough weekend for both Ashburton College's Boys' and Girls' teams as they met the 'best of the best' at this annual Championship.

#### Girls' Draw

While some close encounters occurred, College faced tough opposition with losses in the Girls' Draw, to eventual winners St Margaret's College, and runners-up Christchurch Girls' High School.

#### Close Outcome

Holly-Jayne Feutz took it to her Christchurch

Girls' High School

opponent, and Year 12

Canterbury Secondary

Schools' runner-up,

narrowly going down

in a third set super tie,

10-12. A result doesn't

get too much closer

than that.

(Pictured right):

Holly-Jayne Feutz in

action.

#### Additional Results

Other teams to front up in the Girls' Draw were St Andrew's College who proved to be too strong. The fight was slightly tighter against Rangitikei Ruru Girls' School with some matches going to tie-breaks but Rangitikei Ruru also proved to be the winner on the day.

#### Boys' Draw

Christ's College, St Andrew's College and Marlborough Boys' College also proved too dominant against AshColl.



#### Results

However, Jake Parsons

gained a victory against his

opponent Joseph Sandford-

Jury 6-0, 7-5.

Jack Ellis knocked on the

door of his opponent going

down 7-5, 6-4.

(Pictured left): Jake Parsons

finishing sending his shot

down to the other end of the

court.

Michael concluded by

advising that, overall,

this was a good weekend

of tennis, despite some

adverse weather and some

tough competition.

### Forthcoming Events

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

#### March

13 South Island Secondary Schools' Meridian Rowing Regatta, Lake Ruataniwha

13 Aoraki Touch Tournament, Timaru

Girls' Cricket Gillette Venus Cup

16 Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Timaru (venue changed from Ashburton), Under 16 and Under 19 categories only.

Cancelled - Mountain Bike Singletracks Round 3, Halswell Quarry Park, Christchurch

17 Mates and Dates Programme

Postponement Day: Aoraki Secondary Schools' Athletics, Timaru

Aoraki Girls' and Boys' Volleyball, Timaru

18 Postponement Day: Aoraki Secondary Schools Athletics, Timaru

19 Cancelled - Polyfest, Entertainment Triangle, North Hagley Park, Christchurch

23 Cancelled - Mountain Bike Singletracks Round 4, Halswell Quarry Park, Christchurch

Cancelled - Year 12/13 Tertiary Day, Hotel Ashburton

23-25 Year 11 Outdoor Education Hike 1, Woolshed Creek Hut

26-27 Cancelled South Island Secondary Schools' Touch Champs, Christchurch

Further Information will be provided regarding:

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

#### Term Dates 2022 -

Term One Thursday 14 April

Term Two Friday 08 July

Term Three Friday 30 September

Term Four Year level final dates to be advised, but final days for Years 13, 11 and 12 likely to be in the week beginning 31 October; while Year 9 and 10 students' final day is Thursday 08 December.