



### Head of Junior School Message

#### Transition Planning for 2024

We are well underway with planning for the transition of Year 8 Students to Year 9 for 2024. As always, this is an exciting time where we get to strengthen the connections between College and our contributing schools.

Heading out and seeing where our students come from and meeting their teachers sets up both us and them to have a great start when the students arrive at College.

The team overseeing the transition this year includes Mel King, one of our Learning Support Co-ordinators; James List, one of our Deans; Anna Rimmer, our Assistant Head of Junior School; and members of our College Counselling team.

Together, we are working to ensure transition is smooth and equitable for all of our students.

#### Orientation Morning

We look forward to meeting all Year 8 students at our Orientation Morning on Friday 24 November, the letters for which have recently been sent out to the families of those enrolled, and to contributing schools.

#### Leadership Opportunities

With the senior students on exam leave, there are numerous upcoming opportunities for our junior students to get involved and develop their leadership skills.

The aforementioned Orientation Day will allow our current students to act as tour guides for our new students, showing them around the school and helping them to feel comfortable about what's to come.

We will also be taking students back to visit their previous schools to talk to the Year 8 students about Ashburton College.

#### Strength to Strength - Leadership Training

Strength to Strength, a leadership training course, is coming in to work with our Year 10 students towards the end of the month.

Students who are interested in being part of this need to contact me or their Ako teacher to get signed up.

#### Tagata Moana Trust

The Tagata Moana Trust is also coming into school to run a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activation for our Pasifika students.

#### Moving On

The end of this year also sees the end of my time here at Ashburton College.

I have only been here for a short time but I have been so impressed with our students and the opportunities that our students have here at Ashburton College. Having moved to the region from Auckland, I was very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning here and I have learned a lot about what makes a 'good school tick'.

I want to thank our team for their tireless work and support of the Junior School. Guy Smith, Anna Rimmer, James List and Sue Johnson have consistently gone above and beyond to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

Carolyn Aberhart has continued her excellent work in the Kohanga, which is such an asset to this community.

I wish the team and all of the junior students at Ashburton College all the best for the future.



John Cook  
Head of Junior School

### Congratulations

#### Student Successes Celebrated at Year 11 and 12 Prize-Givings

A very enjoyable evening recognising student successes was held, as a combined Year 11 and 12 event, on Tuesday 31 October at the Ashburton Event Centre.

Ashburton College thanks all at the Event Centre for their assistance over our two recent Awards nights. To Roger Fair, Gudrun Weber, Casey Rose and Micah Innes – your hard work and assistance was appreciated.

#### Appreciation to our Community

In relation to a number of our Academic and Special Awards, many of these are donated by individuals and groups and we are very grateful to our local community for this. Some of these awards and awardees are highlighted further through this article.

#### Musical Contributions and National Anthem

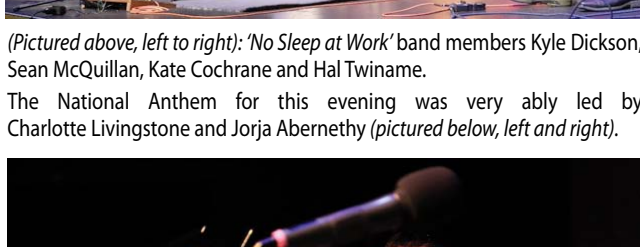
College Rock Band 'No Sleep at Work', provided the Processional, a performance, and the Recessional. The band is ably supported and assisted by Music Teacher Stephen Garton.

Through the evening's programme the Band performed 'Kitchenware and Candybars' by Stone Temple Pilots for the Processional; 'Second Season', Original Composition; and 'Cherub Rock' by The Smashing Pumpkins for the Recessional.



(Pictured above, left to right): 'No Sleep at Work' band members Kyle Dickson, Sean McQuillan, Kate Cochrane and Hal Twine.

The National Anthem for this evening was very ably led by Charlotte Livingstone and Jorja Abernethy (pictured below, left and right).



(Pictured right): Hannah Ikaheifo addressing the audience.

#### Welcome by MC, Deputy Principal Hannibal Ikaheifo

Hannibal introduced the evening saying Malo e lelei, Kia orana koutou katoata, Ni sa Bula Vinaka, Talofa lava, Namaste, and giving a very warm welcome to students, staff, parents, caregivers, whānau and invited guests.

Hannibal emphasised that, this evening, we came together to celebrate the commitment, perseverance, achievements, and successes of the 2023 Year 11 and 12 students.

(Pictured right): Hannibal Ikaheifo addressing the audience.



Principal's Address – Ross Preece

Interrupted School Years

Ross Preece noted that the current Year 11 and Year 12 students are yet to encounter a year of secondary schooling free from serious disruption, the effects of Covid and Industrial Action.

He noted we are all hopeful that in 2024, a normal secondary year of face-to-face teaching, and a full smorgasboard of school activities can



James McKenzie, Ski Area Manager at Mt Hutt, and our guest speaker for the evening, wove some links from childhood to decisions and pathways taken as an adult, offering some valid thoughts for us all to take away.

An Interesting 'Bio'

His bio reflects his significant capabilities, his interests and ultimately his preference for life in New Zealand.

Experiments

James grew up and went to school in Twizel and Tokoroa, both areas with cold winters. A key experiment as a child, involving a frozen swimming pool and a piping system to warm the water, proved to

#### Pride in Achievements

Ross reminded students about to receive awards that they should feel proud of their achievements.

Ross referenced the College's Mission Statement of 'Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment' saying that all students at the evening should have had a moment to exceed expectations and that, often, these moments of individual excellence came about in a sporting, cultural or leadership situation. Ross cited some examples displayed throughout the year through the Overlay production, Polyfest, Boys' 1st XV Rugby and the 1st XI Girls' Hockey team.

The College's role, through staff, is to provide support to enable excellence.

#### AshColl Values

Another role of staff at College is to instill an appreciation of our school Values, which we make up the AshColl Way, including having 'Respect for yourself and others'; and taking Pride in the Quality of your work and interactions with others around you. Students were reminded that these are universal values which will take them far in life.

#### Plans for 2024

Acknowledged was the fact that a number of students will make a 'big call' over the coming months as they make a decision to return to school next year, or start working life, saying, 'as a College we are happy to support you either way'.

In the event more credits are required to complete Levels 1 or 2 Ross' advice was to return to school in 2024, affirming the value of completing a qualification, gaining careers guidance or work experience.

#### Masters of Your Own Identity

Students were reminded they are 'Masters of their own identity', emphasising it is 'your destiny, so make the most of it, and don't be afraid to try something new'.

#### Acknowledgements

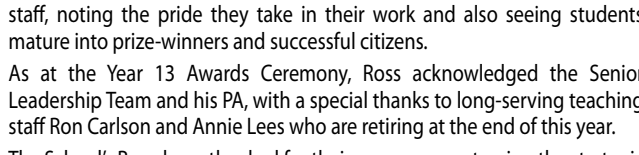
Acknowledgements were taken to the both of teaching and non-teaching staff, noting the pride they take in their work and also seeing students mature into prize-winners and successful citizens.

As at the Year 13 Awards Ceremony, Ross acknowledged the Senior Leadership Team and his PA, with a special thanks to long-serving teaching staff Ron Carlson and Annie Lees who are retiring at the end of this year.

The School's Board was thanked for their governance, steering the strategic direction of College and being ably led by Presiding Member Jen Muir and Deputy Presiding Member Tony Gilbert.

Parents and caregivers, and those who have faced the harsh challenges that teenage life presents, were thanked for their mahi and for providing constant support for their children.

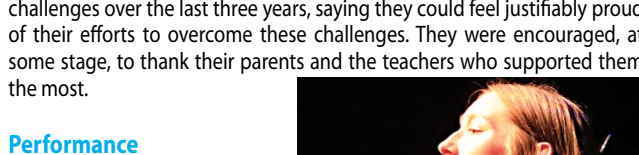
Ross' final thanks went to the students, who have all faced significant challenges over the last three years, saying they could feel justified proud of their efforts to overcome these challenges. They were encouraged, at some stage, to thank their parents and the teachers who supported them the most.



(Pictured right): Prior to the presentation of the Year 11 Achievement Awards, Year 12 student Tamsin Carney entertained the audience with a lovely rendition of 'In His Eyes' from 'Jekyll and Hyde' by Frank Wildhorn.

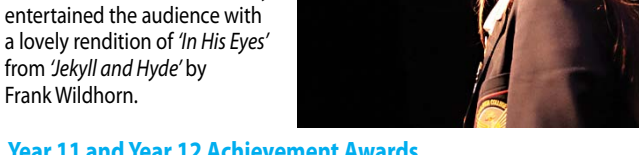
Year 11 and Year 12 Achievement Awards

These were announced by Head Students Henry Thomas, who read the Year 11 Awardees; and by Sarah Wilson, reading the Year 12 Awardees.



(Pictured right and far right): Sarah Wilson and Henry Thomas calling awardees to the stage.

These award presentations were followed by our Guest Speaker for the evening.



James McKenzie - James McKenzie

James McKenzie, Ski Area Manager at Mt Hutt, and our guest speaker for the evening, wove some links from childhood to decisions and pathways taken as an adult, offering some valid thoughts for us all to take away.

An Interesting 'Bio'

His bio reflects his significant capabilities, his interests and ultimately his preference for life in New Zealand.

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### Congratulations

For those who have enjoyed the hot pools complex, you can thank James for his foresight, energy, and business acumen. In 2017 he established the Methven Adventures Ltd Company to build the Opake Thermal Pools and Spa which opened in 2021. As Project Director James was responsible for the fundraising, design, construction and start-up, and he remains actively involved as a Director.

#### Post Secondary School

On leaving school, James elected to take the university pathway and studied Engineering at Cambridge University, in England.

This was followed by work in Nuclear Fusion research for five years, before moving to Ford's Premier Automotive Group of Jaguar, Land Rover and Aston Martins - to work in Product Development.

#### Retaining New Zealand Passport

A lucrative job offer in the USA followed, but this proved to be a pivotal point. Part of the requirement was to surrender his New Zealand Passport and Citizenship, something he wasn't prepared to do.

Therefore, via Australia, in 2006 James returned to New Zealand to live in Methven with his wife and two sons, putting lifestyle ahead of money.

From then he spent a year working in Hydroelectricity, designing, and installing mini-hydro schemes around New Zealand, before obtaining a position as Assistant Ski Area Manager at Mt Hutt Ski field.

This was interspersed with a year as General Manager of Technical Operations for NZSKI Ltd in Queenstown, and then a return to Methven in 2012 to his current position as Ski Area Manager at Mt Hutt.

Interests

His personal interests also describe James well. They include Renewable Energy/Sustainable businesses; Mountaineering; Rock Climbing, with his highlight being climbing the world-challenging The Nose on El Capitan in Yosemite; Sailing and Scuba Diving.

In Conclusion

James covered anecdotes and specifics related to much of the above, summarising with the following observations and encouragements -

• Make decisions that feel right. For him this was living away New Zealand citizenship, and not compromising enjoyment of life/work for the sake of money.

• Whilst it might not seem to be the case, there is some certainty in the future. Prices will always go up.

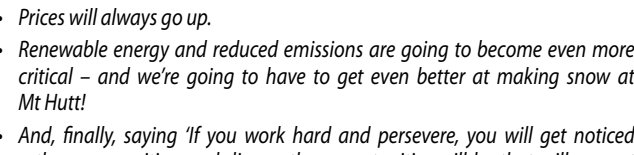
• Renewable energy and reduced emissions are going to become even more critical - and we're going to have to get even better at making snow at Mt Hutt!

• And, finally, saying 'If you work hard and persevere, you will get noticed - the more exciting and diverse the opportunities will be that will present themselves to you.'

Year 11 and Year 12 Academic and Special Awards

These were announced by Deputy Head Students Olivia Pearce and Seb McMillan.

(Pictured right and far right): Seb McMillan and Olivia Pearce calling awardees to the stage.



Board Presiding Member Acknowledgement

These award presentations were followed by the College Board's Presiding Member, Jen Muir, who acknowledged the contributions of Principal Ross Preece to Ashburton College over his seven-year tenure, and prior to his forthcoming retirement. This acknowledgement was included in last week's newsletter.

Key Year 11 Awardees were -

Ashburton High School Centennial Trust

Top Scholar Award - Year 11

Lily Zhen

In attaining the Year 11 Top Scholar Award, Lily gained the following awards -

• Top Scholar in Mathematics (Ashburton District Council Prize and Year 11 Mathematics Cup)

• Top Scholar in Science (Gordon Binns Cup and Ashburton District Council Prize)

• Accounting (Brophy Knight Limited Prize)

• Digital Information Technology (Rosalee Begg Memorial Award and Heartland Technology Prize and Allison MacGregor Cup) - joint award

• Japanese (Ton's Thai Award)

• Level 1 Excellence Award

• AshColl Way Award

(Pictured right and far right): Lily Zhen receiving her awards.



Key Year 12 Awardees were -

DPI Academic Achievement Award

and ANZ Bank Trophy for the Top Student in Year 12

Olivia Fox

In attaining the Year 12 Top Scholar Award, Olivia gained the following awards -

• Drama (Jenny Smith Trophy)

• Paisley Trophy for Contribution to Year 12 Music - joint award

• Excellence in Level 2 Psychology Online

• Level 2 Excellence Award

• AshColl Way Award

Olivia was also Year 11 Top Scholar in 2022.

(Pictured right and far right): Olivia Fox receiving her awards.



#### Rakiroa Trophy for the Top Performing Year 11 Māori Student

Lilly George-Tarawa

In attaining the Rakiroa Trophy, Lilly also gained the following awards -

• Health - Level 1 Excellence Award

• AshColl Way Award

(Pictured right and far right): Lilly George-Tarawa receiving her awards.



Thistle Masonic Lodge Citizenship Prize

Phoebe McKenzie

This is awarded to a student who is an excellent member of the community, who displays the values of being a good citizen, and who exemplifies the AshColl Way through their actions in a variety of ways.

This year's recipient is an outstanding student who has continually demonstrated the AshColl Values throughout the year.

Phoebe is an amazing young person who quietly goes about her mahi. She is involved in both cultural and sporting activities, is a teams' captain and represents the College in several areas.

Phoebe shows resilience and is a very good communicator. In her own words she loves to be a positive role model through being a captain.

Phoebe is looking forward to being a Peer Support Leader in 2024, thus continuing her leadership growth.

Phoebe also gained the following awards -

• Girls' Grade 5 Swimming Champion (Herbert Smith Trust Cup)

• Member of the Smallbore Rifle Shooting Team as the team that brings the most credit to Ashburton College (Bevan Bain Trophy)

• Level 1 Excellence Award

• AshColl Way Award

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and ANZ Bank Trophy for the Top Student in Year 12

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• Drama (Jenny Smith Trophy)

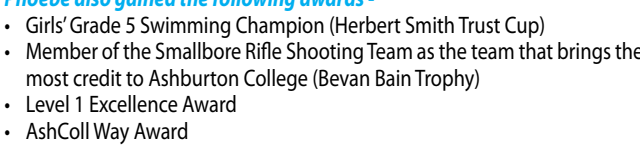
• Paisley Trophy for Contribution to Year 12 Music - joint award

• Excellence in Level 2 Psychology Online

• Level 2 Excellence Award

• AshColl Way Award

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Rarakiroa Award for the Top Year 12 Māori Student

E-J Elliott

In attaining the Year 12 Top Māori Student Award E-J gained the following awards -

• Level 2 Merit Award

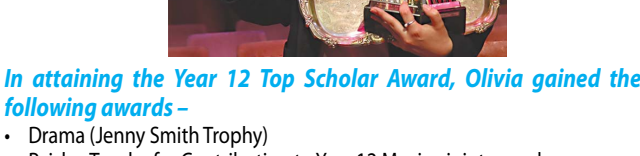
• AshColl Way Award

In 2022, E-J received the Rakiroa Trophy for the Top Performing Year 11 Māori Student.

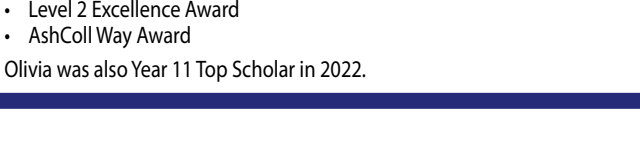


Additional Recipients included -

These awards, at Year 12 level, were presented by Guest Speaker James McKenzie.



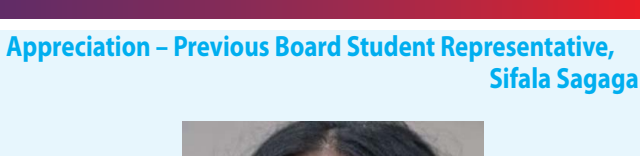
(Pictured left): Madi Tourle receiving her awards of Top Student in Economics; the Ashburton College Smallbore Rifle Shooting Team as the team that brings the most credit to Ashburton College (Bevan Bain Trophy); Level 2 Merit and AshColl Way Awards.



(Pictured right): Kingsley Olawale receiving the Cup recognising him as the Boys' Under 16 Athletics Champion (Ashburton High School Cup).



(Pictured left): John Dalton was the recipient of the Grow Mid Canterbury Trophy for the most consistent level of application in the Trades Experience Course.



(Pictured right): John Dalton was the recipient of the Grow Mid Canterbury Trophy for the most consistent level of application in the Trades Experience Course.



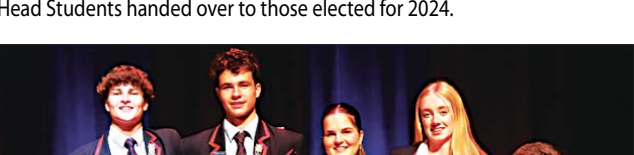
### Congratulations

#### Meet our Head Students Elect for 2024

Student leadership aspirations continue amongst the current Year 12 cohort, with fourteen students putting their names forward for consideration as Head Students.

The appointment process is rigorous: involving self-nomination, voting by staff and students for the initial short-listing, candidate speeches, further voting by staff and students, and interviews by the College's incoming Principal Simon Coleman, Deputy Principal Helen Shore-Taylor, Head of Senior School Abbey Bruce and Neill Brown, Ashburton District Mayor.

The announcement at this evening was exciting and moving, as this year's Head Students handed over to those elected for 2024.



This year's outgoing Head Students (pictured above, back row, left to right): Seb McMillan (Deputy Head), Henry Thomas and Sarah Wilson (Head Students), Olivia Pearce (Deputy Head Student).

2024 Incoming Head Students (pictured front row, left to right): E-J Elliott (Deputy Head Student), Tamsin Carney and Ripena Umaga Vaela (Head Students), Jordy McGillen (Deputy Head Student).

#### Responses to Election

As can be expected, the incoming students were very excited to be elected, with Ripena saying she was very thankful and proud of the school's trust in them, saying the team is a 'good bunch'. This was echoed by fellow Head Student Tamsin saying she was very grateful to be chosen, and very happy with the team, knowing they will work well together.

Deputy Head Student E-J echoed these views saying she hasn't stopped smiling since being elected and is really excited at the opportunity which she knows will be a great experience. Deputy Head Student Jordy said election is an honour, that his Year 12 Students are a great group to work with and that he is very excited looking forward to next year.

#### Students' over-arching goals for 2024

These encompass building relationships, with the key foci advised as -

• Further supporting Year 9 students into the College environment.

• Increasing communication and rapport across all year groups and, particularly, bonds between Year 13 and Year 9 students.

• Strengthening pride in the College environment, how it and students look, seeing it as important how 'things' look at College.

• Wanting to create a fun and inclusive environment to lessen barriers between year groups, promote fun school events and work towards a clean environment with more green spaces, particularly with reference to the new build.

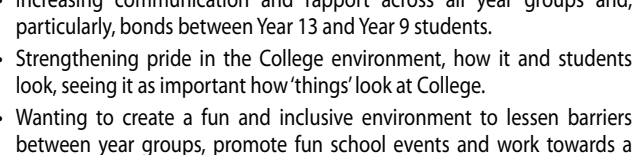
#### Ashburton College School Board - Newly Elected Student Representative

Additional to the Head Student Representative role, students also stand for the position of Student Representative to the College School Board. The process for this follows national legislative procedures, but runs alongside, albeit separate to, the Head Student Election process.

Students are able to self-nominate or be nominated. They then prepare video link nominee speeches which are viewed in Ako class time, in preparation for Year 9-13 students to vote electronically, for the student to represent them on the Ashburton College School Board.

The electronic voting process took place from 19-24 October, for this one-year position. The new representative commences their responsibilities at the Board's 29 November meeting.

This year 59 students were nominees for the role, which is a very pleasing level of interest shown in what is a responsible position. All who stood for election are acknowledged for their time and effort put in to the process and for having the personal courage to put their names forward.



The successful candidate this year is - Iela Mangubat

### Appreciation - Previous Board Student Representative, Sifala Sagaga

Sincere appreciation is given to Sifala Sagaga, Board Student Representative from November 2022-October 2023. Sifala brought a valued perspective to the Board table, being a willing contributor to matters under discussion.

Sifala was a person who thought beyond the immediate discussion to suggesting outcomes or areas to investigate further. She was pro-active in asking the key purposes of the Student Representative reports and what approach and information the Board wanted and would find the most useful. Sifala made these adjustments accordingly, providing some in-depth information, observations and collective student body viewpoints.

Often her inputs gave valuable insights into the individual and collective thinking of the Student Executive and Student Executive and House Committees.

Significant again, this year, was the impressive ability of the students to adapt to the variances wrought by Industrial Action.

Our Board values the input of Student Representatives and Sifala is thanked sincerely for her time, effort, thought and contributions given to what is a time-demanding and responsible position. The Board has appreciated having Sifala in the role and wishes her well for her post-secondary school years.



Events

2023 Ashburton College Japan Tour

A long-awaited tour, opportunities for which were delayed during Covid times, took place from 20 September-06 October, straddling the school holiday period plus the three days prior to the end of Term Three.

#### Tour Party

The tour party was comprised of twenty-two students, College staff members Hiromi Horsley and Michelle Hosking, former Teacher of Japanese Chris Buckland and four parents - Jonathan Ackroyd, Abby Calder, Lynette and Robin McClimont.

Student participants were - Rosara Ackroyd, Dion Bayston, Amelia Bruce, Lily Campbell, Sabrina Cassini, Simone Forster Lobato de Faria, Ashley Gee, Ellie Glen, Iela Mangubat, Gloria Mash, Renee McClimont, Phoebe McKenzie, Jesse Nieman, Patrizio Novello, Bella Oakley, Keisha Power, Caitlin Stewart, Lachlan Storey, Ysabella Tawata, Shaun Walker, Lily Zhen, Sam Zhen.

#### Tour Party Itinerary

The group visited College's Sister School Tokorozawa Kita High School in Saitama Prefecture, plus visiting Kyoto, Nara Osaka, Himeji, Hiroshima, and Tokyo.

Tokorozawa Kita High School

The group was welcomed to Tokorozawa Kita High School on the Thursday afternoon, 21 September. AshColl students attended the school on the Friday and home-stayed over the weekend with very kind host families.

Many AshColl students had hosted the Tokorozawa students in July of this year and therefore had good friendships. Teacher of Japanese and Tour Organiser Hiromi Horsley said that the AshColl students had a great time with their families and lots of time, as a group, with only the students.

Hiromi said there were