



HASTINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

Term 1
2020

STUDENT LEADERS 2020



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Exemplary Learners In All Walks of Life

From the Deputy Principal

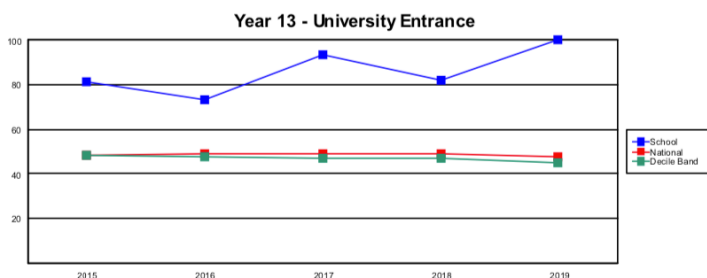


Dear Parents,

Welcome to our term one newsletter. The year is now well underway with all classes and school activities running at full steam ahead.

I do want to spend a moment sharing with you a summary of our fantastic results achieved

by our senior students in their NCEA examinations. There are two main statistics that speak convincingly to improvements that have occurred across the full range of student ability. Firstly, our merit/excellence percentages are now at 54% which means that over half of the external standards sat by all the students were at merit or excellence level. Combining this with a low 12% not achieved rate makes our overall results quite outstanding. Secondly, all of our Year 13 students achieved University Entrance. Admittedly our Year 13 cohort was small, but nevertheless, for every student to achieve this qualification was a real testament to their effort. University Entrance is based on the successful completion of three level three courses and is therefore a very good measure of overall performance. We consistently outperform national averages as well as like-minded schools. Refer to the graph below.



As a staff, we started the year celebrating our students' results by talking about individual students, reminding ourselves of the effort these students put in to achieve the results they did. It really did show us, in a very real way, how genuine effort and persistence can achieve great things. One of the most important factors in improving student outcome is the students' own understanding around intelligence. Students who

believe intelligence is malleable and not fixed are more likely to take on challenging tasks in an effort to test and expand their ability. Students who believe intelligence is a fixed trait make them generally more reluctant to take on challenging tasks and are more vulnerable to negative feedback. We absolutely want to instill in our students the belief that, ultimately, learning is up to them, and they have the ability to do something about it. Furthermore, I do believe that these learning dispositions influence their fellow students and so we now observe entire year levels exhibit a common learning culture.

We look forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead. I do encourage you to contact your subject teachers if you wish to clarify, feedback, encourage, or question what is occurring in class. Homework tends to be an issue as we start a new year so feedback on how this is going is always helpful for our staff.

On behalf of the staff, I look forward to working with you this year.

Kind regards,
Gerald Feyter

NCEA Endorsements 2019

Year 11

Excellence - Hannah Jamieson, Abby Clark, Josiah Robinson, Richmond Walker, Hannah Joji

Merit - Bethany Aitken, Eva van Seventer, Olivia Pechey, Max Harris, Sabine van der Werff, Atalia Thompson, Elizabeth Reyland, Vahri Libeau, Viola du Toit, Oliver Sissons, Sophie Clark, Jonty Stuijt, Edward Major, Kasey Hart, Georgia Millard

Year 12

Excellence - Isabelle Walker, Richmond Walker

Merit - Zane Eldershaw, Charlotte Sanko, Rachel Akkerman

Year 13

Excellence - Anna van den Hout, Sarah Nieuwland, Hayley Scott

Merit - Arrien Mallory

Meet our Student Leaders

Ethan Huston Head Boy

Why did you decide to apply for student leadership?

It would be a time where I could improve myself in different ways and to help strengthen my faith and public speaking.



What have been some of the highlights in your time at HCS?

Year 13 camp was a fantastic experience. I always enjoy the atmosphere in the day to day goings on of the school.

What do you intend to do next year?

I want to do electronic or mechanical engineering.

What is your main goal as a student leader this year?

I would really like the students to be more comfortable talking about issues of faith and that starts with me.

Charlotte Sanko Head Girl

Why did you decide to apply for student leadership?

I wanted to step out of my comfort zone. I have always wanted to serve in this capacity and it is a way of giving back to the school.



What have been some of the highlights in your time at HCS?

Our recent biology trip to Tongariro was one of the trips that stood out. I also enjoyed being a house leader and being involved in HCS sports teams.

What do you intend to do next year?

I plan to do primary teaching at Waikato.

What is your main goal as a student leader this year?

To encourage a sense of unity across the year levels at this school and to help students to feel included.

Robotics

The year 10 business studies class visited a local business, H & C Automated Solutions, on the 7th of February. Students saw how robotics and automated equipment are designed and created for global markets. We saw a production line with robots unpacking cardboard boxes and processing the contents, all a lot quicker than a human could.



The company employs engineers and electricians, including an ex-student from HCS! We are very grateful to Matt Johnston, a senior project manager at H & C, for taking the time to give us a guided tour and for the fascinating insight into the world of robotics.



New Teacher Profiles

Kirsten Anderson

Kia ora. I was born and raised in Whanganui and attended Faith City School/Church (formerly Faith Academy). My extended family are from Ohakune and I spent a lot of time there growing up and still visit there most holidays. I moved to Hawke's Bay in 2016 and have found it to be a very friendly and welcoming place to live. I'm very happy to now call it home and Bay Vineyard Church in Napier my home church.

I have come to HCS from teaching Visual Arts at Lindisfarne College and prior to that, teaching Digital Technology at Titikaveka College in Rarotonga. Art and Photography are my main subject areas and I am very passionate about both. After completing a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts I worked for six years as a professional photographer in Wellington before deciding to move into teaching.

I passionately believe that the classroom should be a safe and exciting place, full of

exploration. Art is a fantastic avenue for building key skills, such as: confident problem solving, perseverance, positive decision making, collaboration, and creative and lateral thinking, and all the while nurturing students' sense of self and discovering their wider identity. Students also learn to develop and extend their ability to focus, through expanding their own ideas and resourcefulness. At a senior level students learn to connect and analyse multiple ideas simultaneously. These skills are very important in all modern working environments and tertiary study.

I am enjoying getting to know the students and staff here at HCS and I'm excited to meet the wider community. Nga mihi.



Meredith Robert

We have a new staff member in the Mathematics and Science departments. We are very pleased to add Mrs Meredith Robert to the teaching team. Meredith is a past pupil of Twyford Primary, Heretaunga Intermediate and Hastings Girls High School. She left school to train as a dental therapist and then worked as

one for eight years. During that time, she studied extramurally to gain a science degree and also trained

to teach. She held teaching positions at Bethlehem College in Tauranga, Trident College in Whakatane and more recently at her old school, Hastings Girls.

I asked Meredith what her first impression was of our school. She considers this her dream job, and enjoys interacting with our students, where the chief focus is on teaching and learning. Meredith enjoys working in a co-ed school and appreciates our students sense of humour. She has found our staff supportive and friendly, who are collectively focused on the good of our students and their education. Meredith says that the school is like being a in a large family. Meredith is married to Tim and has two school age children, Anton and Emma.

Antonio Della Barca

Antonio recently moved back to Hawke's Bay to pass on his knowledge in vocal pedagogy both in schools and privately.

For the past five years he had been studying pedagogy of voice at the University of Otago. He has now completed his studies and holds a Bachelor of Performance Arts in voice and a Graduate Diploma in Music. Antonio's passion is musical theatre,

He loves to perform but also loves to teach.

He comes from a strong choral background as both his grandmother and mother taught many award winning choirs over the years and is now very proud to be taking up the baton!

Antonio is looking forward to meeting you and working with your children in the year ahead.



Biology Trip to Tongariro

Report by
Isabelle Walker Y13

Trepidation filled the atmosphere as we drove up the dusty road. The mountain was imposing and we were about to embark on a treacherous journey. Mrs Pratt had warned us last night that someone had died up the mountain last Monday. And so we had packed our bags with extra caution, making sure that we all had enough food for a few days, due to the likelihood that some of us would be left behind. Before you assume that the trip went badly; it didn't. Everyone came back safe and sound but very tired! The first night we stayed in a ski lodge called Piper's Lodge. Another school group from Auckland was also staying there while they did the crossing.

After a good night's sleep, we woke up early the second day to have breakfast, pack our lunch and drive up to the mountain. When we got to the Mangatepopo car park at the bottom of the track we tumbled out of our cars and began the hike. For about 3km we marched across largely flat grasslands to Soda Springs. By that time, many of us were already exhausted! Nevertheless we continued and began the ascent up the never ending trail of steps up to the mountain plateau.



As we climbed higher and higher, the landscape changed from grassy green slopes to what looked like a volcanic wasteland. Someone even remarked that they felt like they were in Greece. At the top of the first peak (1600m.a.s.l.) we came to a long flat stretch that looked like a crater of the moon. The soil beneath our feet was an orange colour and we wondered if this was due to the volcanic eruptions. After climbing a very steep and rocky slope we reached the top of the Red Crater (1900m.a.s.l.) where we ate our lunch with a view of the blue lakes and a huge reddy-brown crater. To many of us, the surroundings were so different to what we normally see in NZ landscapes that we felt we had entered a different country!

After scoffing down our sandwiches and apples we scrambled back down the steep slope as fast as

we could in order to leave enough time for our data gathering. Some students had to test the heart rates and blood pressures of other students at different altitudes for their investigation and others studied the plant species growing at different altitudes. To do this, we laid rope quadrats in the bushland next to the track and did testing of abiotic factors and estimated the percentage cover of the different plant species present. Everyone had a different job, and so we were able to work efficiently with the assistance of our parent helpers.

Returning to lower altitudes, we all began to moan about our sore feet and legs, and how we felt extremely tired. But we also felt great satisfaction having conquered the heights of Tongariro.



Back at Piper's Lodge we sought local advice as to where we could find a place to swim because it was sooo hot. They directed us to a place called Golom's pool in a river five minutes down the road. The pool was clear and cold with a huge waterfall and we had a great time jumping off the waterfall and the rocks surrounding the deep pool. Back at Pipers Lodge that evening we had dinner and went to bed exhausted after sharing all our investigation results. The next day we headed home through Taupo. We all had an amazing time thanks to Mrs Pratt's careful organisation and the wonderful assistance of Mrs Lassing and our parent helpers and drivers Mr Eldershaw, Mr Clark, Mr Scott and Mrs Meinsma. We are very grateful to the Lord for the wonderful weather and the amazing memories created on our exciting field trip.



Garden Club

Garden Club is growing (excuse the pun!)

Garden club meets every Thursday at lunchtime to weed, water, plant, harvest and sometimes cook what has grown. The fruit and vegetable garden is situated right in the heart of the secondary school and exists to inspire and encourage students to see how satisfying it is to grow their own food. In a time when home vegetable gardening is in decline, this is an important message for our students to hear. There is a certain sense of wonder and satisfaction as students experience the taste of fresh produce without packaging or sprays and with virtually no food miles.

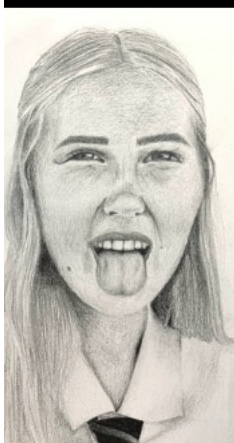
As the garden has continued to grow it is giving students the opportunity to pick fresh vegetables, fruit and herbs for their practical cooking lessons. It also allows the students to join in donating excess produce to the Kai stall to support our community. The garden really has become a hive of activity and interest this year as students watch with anticipation the growth of several very large Atlantic giant pumpkins. The seeds were sown by year 10 students last year along with several skyscraper

sunflowers which are now towering over the garden. They haven't finished growing just yet but the race is on to claim the prize for the tallest sunflower and the heaviest pumpkin. Mr Meinsma and past pupil Campbell Walker who were busy working on the new classroom block over the holidays, kindly helped edge the garden with some left over half rounds and it is just as well because it is now a sea of leaves and planting. It looks fantastic! We are also very grateful to Bernard Donk for donating some paint this year so we could give the apple crates a new lease of life.

It has become tradition for the year 12 Home economics class to plant a fruit tree to add to the garden each year. The students this year have planted a passionfruit to clamber up the palm tree, and two dwarf apple trees. Our raspberry plants were seedlings that Mr Hickling kindly donated last year and many students have been enjoying the glorious large sweet raspberries in the past weeks. It really has become a shared garden with many people showing an interest and effort to maintain it and develop it. As you can see by the photo it has become a lovely green space for our students and staff to enjoy.



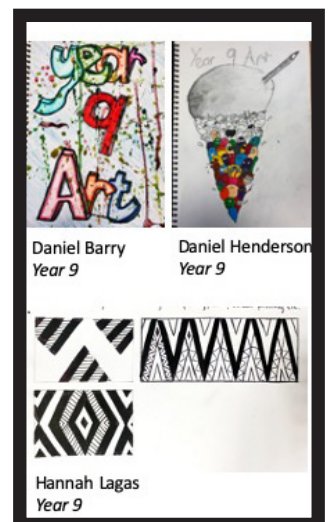
ART



Emily Whitford
Year 11



Oliver Sissons
Year 12



Daniel Barry
Year 9

Daniel Henderson
Year 9

Hannah Lagas
Year 9

Year 13 Camp

"It's this way!" "He said, 'left, left, right, so it must be this way!'" You'll find he said 'straight, then left, left, right!'. These were some of the sounds heard in the Waitomo caves as year 13's took on the challenge of crawling through narrow tunnels as part of our amazing Yr 13 camp. That was Day Two, so let's go back to the start.

Day One: Wednesday, we travelled to Lake Taupo, and pitched tents at Ted Palmer's place. This was a real privilege to swim, camp, and take part in the many fun and problem-solving challenges Ted had set up for us. These included group competitions including water pipe, log and tyre, land mine, and canoe races.

In the evening after a tasty hamburger meal, Ted's talk (devotion), was on the topic of being role models, and after a light supper we drifted off to sleep with the sound of the lake waves in the background.



Day Two: Thursday, after breakfast, we travelled to Waitomo camping ground, where we again put up our tents, split into two groups and went black water rafting through the spectacular and sometimes scary Waitomo caves.

The glow worms put on a special show for us as we crawled, leaped backwards, swam, and paddled on



our tyre tubes deep into the caves. A highlight was being pulled joined-together through one section of the cave by our guides with the only light coming from the

glow worm cathedral ceiling. What a wonderful feeling coming out the other end and having soup and bagels to warm up our wet and tired bodies, while watching on screen a re-run of our trip from the guides' photos! The rest of the day was spent swimming and relaxing back at camp, with Mrs Nicoll leading our devotion on 'thinking of others' just as William Booth did.

Day Three: Friday, was pack up day, and after a breakfast and devotion lead by Mr Hickling, on the five virtues found in Colossians 3:12-14, we left Waitomo to drive back to Taupo for a lakeside lunch, and then home to Hawke's Bay.



Sports Corner

Pula Tolovae Peivi - Athletics

After exams last year, Pula attended the NZ secondary school national athletics competition. It was held in Wellington and unfortunately the city lived up to its reputation as it was very windy. Pula's chosen events of hammer throw and javelin became a challenging time away. She had a practice time at the arena and following day she got straight into her three qualifying throws. In her last hammer throw she threw 42m which helped



her qualify into the top eight. The next day, again on her third attempt she threw 44.8m which meant she placed 6 th overall. She was very excited and proud of her achievements. During the competition, javelin didn't quite go her way, but she is adamant this year's nationals will be different. Her goal is to attend nationals again in December. This year it will be held in Dunedin. Pula trains twice a week for five hours under the guidance of Shiree Jones from Hawkes Bay Athletics. She also adds her own training at home and the sports park. Pula is a keen athlete that has played volleyball and netball for the school to a high level and has a keen interest in rugby.



Deliciously Long Art Deco Lunch

Students looked dapper and staff had an extra hop to their step as the whole school gathered together for our first house event of the year, the inaugural HCS Art Deco Long Lunch.

As the feet twisting, lazy rhythms of big band and swing music rolled out from under the shade of the large walnut tree, students and staff had their fill on the amazing table after table of nutritious treats.

The spirited atmosphere was carefully cultivated by the hardworking dames of the Home and School committee and our new house leaders. Bunting and artesian bouquets adorned the skies and the tables,

while comfy picnic blankets and rugs dotted the lawn. Bubbly homemade lemon punch helped wash down the abundance of food, allowing fancy cats, of the likes of Mr Clark and Mr Feyter, to join in the Charleston and find their place in the festive conga line.

Suspenders, bowties and vintage hairbands aside, it was truly a joy to behold students across the ages of school laughing, dancing and sharing a meal together. A huge applause of appreciation goes out to all families for their efforts with dress up and wonderful dishes for the day. Your dedication to authenticity and participation, contributed to the success of this outstanding event.

