



South Otago High School

Newsletter 16th October 2020

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa
Warm greetings to you all

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Welcome to the first newsletter of the last term of 2020. The school holidays were a good time to reflect upon what a year it has been and how well the students (and staff) of South Otago High School have come through all of the trials and challenges that the year has presented.

It has also made me very aware of how fortunate I am to work in a school which has such fantastic staff and students who on the whole have adapted to the changing world in which we currently work in.

This week I have been working with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss how we will utilise some of what we have learnt from the lock down and also from the feedback from our community consultation. Over the next year I look forward to sharing with the Board and our wider community how we will use what we have learnt to improve the outcomes for students.

Māori Parent consultation

It was a pleasure on Tuesday evening to attend a brief performance by our awesome Kapa Haka students and then to have a discussion with the whanau of some of our Māori students to hear their aspirations for their children. Once again this feedback will be incorporated into the strategic plan for the school wide development for the next three years.

Wearing school uniform with pride

We ask that parents support the school with ensuring that students do have the correct uniform to attend school each day. This includes for the journey to and from school when we expect that students will be wearing appropriate regulation jackets and jerseys on cooler mornings. Whilst I realise that as the end of the school year draws close there may be a reluctance to buy new shoes, as young people's feet do grow so quickly, if the current shoes can be made to last for the final weeks or in urgent situations we will usually be able to provide a loan pair of uniform shoes.

From the community consultation we are going to be reviewing the uniform based upon the feedback that has been provided. Any changes will be shared in good time before being implemented and there will be a transition period before any changes become compulsory.

Did you know...?

During the community consultation I shared with some parents the significant contribution that both our rural community, such as farms, make as well as local businesses within Balclutha. Whilst we try to acknowledge the support given by businesses it may not be apparent just how much South Otago High School is reliant upon and appreciates the contribution that is made to the education of our young people within our district. At one meeting when I explained how much support was provided in terms of resources, donations and support from local business there was some surprise. Not always is this support financial but even the donation of time to speak to students about careers or work opportunities or assistance with materials or equipment is invaluable.

Friday School

Over the last few years we have developed new programmes and a unique feature of our timetable is now our 'Friday School Programme'. The day starts with a late start for students. This is to enable quality time for the teaching staff to meet and engage in professional development and reflection. This is time to review who are our students who are at risk of not achieving either at all or to their full potential. We also develop programmes to meet the needs of these individuals. This time for staff is structured and invaluable as it is a time when teachers can work together without disruption or distractions that occur at other times of the work day.

Loan Chromebooks and devices

Earlier this year as we entered into lock down a number of students were issued with a loan chromebook or device to enable them to continue with their studies. Upon returning to school we also enabled students to continue to use these loan devices. Shortly, we shall be calling for the return of these loan devices to school. The school has good records of which student was issued with which device and will be requiring that these are returned in a clean and tidy condition.

Finally

With the final term upon us it is the time for end of year and practice assessments for students. Next week, senior students who are sitting the external NCEA standards will be sitting the practice exams. These should be treated as seriously as the final exams as the results may be used if the student has an impaired performance due to illness.

For junior students there are still a few weeks until their end of year exams and I have this week encouraged students to prepare for these as they may influence decisions with regard to class placement and course options in the future.

In the coming weeks I am looking forward to celebrating the success of students efforts throughout the year.

Ka Kite Ano
Mike Wright
Principal



SOHS Board of Trustee Elections

1. **Nomination forms** have been emailed to all parents/caregivers. If you did not receive a nomination form, please contact the school office (4180517).
2. Nominations close **1st November at noon**. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Board of Trustees, further information is available on the website below:

<https://www.trustee-election.co.nz/becoming-a-trustee/>

School Magazine 2020

A charge of \$20 has been put on all student accounts today. If you **DO NOT** wish to receive a school magazine, please email jfrisby@sohs.school.nz and I will remove the charge from your student's account. I will email students/parents/caregivers when the magazine is available for pick up.

Jackie Frisby
School Secretary

Scholarship Success

Students in Year 13 are encouraged to apply for scholarships and there are a number available to school leavers. The following students have told us about their success with University Scholarships. These scholarships recognise students' achievements and provide significant support as they head to tertiary studies.

Information can be found on tertiary websites such as

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/index.html>

- **Luka Wilson** University of Otago Academic Excellence
- **James Briones** University of Victoria International Excellence Scholarship/ Wellington Tangiwai Scholarship, University of Waikato Outstanding Academic Achievement Scholarship University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship.
- **Faith Batt** University of Otago 150th Anniversary Scholarship
- **Hania Coll** University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship
- **Aroha Stapleforth** University of Otago Maori Scholarship
- **Kaya Laban** University of Otago Pacific Scholarship.
- **Hannah Laugesen** University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship
- **Charlotte Murray** University of Otago New Frontiers Sustained Excellence Scholarship

Well done to all the recipients, we are very proud of you and congratulate you on your success.

Cath Bloxham
Year 13 Dean

Graduation Dinner 2020

As we near the end of the school year plans are underway for end of year activities. Information has been sent to parents/caregivers and students regarding this evening which celebrates the end of the year for Year 13 students and recognises the combined commitment, help and support of students, staff and parents/caregivers during their time at South Otago High School.

The Graduation Dinner will be held Thursday 3rd December 6pm South Otago Town and Country Club. Please make payment and RSVP to the school office no later than Monday 16th November. We look forward to seeing our Year 13 students and family members at this event.

Cath Bloxham
Year 13 Dean

NCEA Exams

NCEA and scholarship exams start on Monday 16 November and run through until Wednesday 9th December. These exams will take place under Covid-19 alert levels 1, 2 and 3. NZQA has advised that schools are not considered gatherings so there are no restrictions on the number of students attending an examination in a single venue (such as the school hall). In all exam rooms we will ensure there is a gap of 1.5 metres between students in all directions. This provides enough distance between students, so they aren't touching or breathing directly on each other and enables supervisors to walk safely between desks. Hand sanitiser will be available outside all exam rooms.

There may be students who will be unable to attend should South Otago region be at Alert Level 3 during exams. We will let you know shortly about the support options available for students in this situation. If the region is at Alert Level 4 it is not possible to hold NCEA or New Zealand Scholarship exams because school sites are required to be closed. The school has an unexpected event grade process which would be available for students prevented from sitting NCEA exams as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Unexpected event grades are not available to New Zealand Scholarship candidates, as this is a competitive award.

If you have any queries about NCEA and Scholarship exams please do get in touch: asmith@sohs.school.nz

Amanda Smith
Principal's Nominee

Year 9 Health

Year 9 students are currently completing a topic based around relationships and sexuality education. As part of the programme, we have Constable Rochelle Gordon coming in this term to take 2 sessions with the year 9 students. These sessions will discuss topics based around relationships. Sessions will cover what unhealthy relationship behaviours can look like, power and control, different types of abuse, unhealthy behaviours online including the dangers of pornography and its messages, how to look after mates whilst in social situations, sexual consent and how to get help.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact either myself or Rochelle.

Hannah Gold - hgold@sohs.school.nz

Rochelle - rochelle.gordon@police.govt.nz

Pink Shirt Day School Bullying - *What it is and what we can do about it together*

Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two male students took a stand against bullying after another student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. The boys bought dozens of pink shirts and distributed them throughout the school and hundreds of students showed up in pink the next day. You can imagine how powerful it was when the bullied student walked into school and saw all of his peers decked out in pink to support him.

Pink Shirt Day has spread all over the world to raise awareness of the impact bullying can have on people of all ages, genders and cultures. The day promotes the development of positive relationships and environments where everyone can feel safe. Next week's newsletter will have some photos of this day at school.

Attached to this newsletter is our school Bullying policy

Bullying is defined based on four characteristics:

- Bullying is deliberate (there is an intention to cause physical and/or psychological pain or discomfort to another person).
- Bullying involves a power imbalance (there is an actual or perceived unequal relationship between the target and the initiator that may be based on physical size, age, gender, social status or digital capability and access).
- Bullying has an element of repetition (not a one-off. It is repeated over time, with the threat of further incidents leading to fear and anxiety. Repeated acts of bullying may involve single acts with different targets, as well as multiple acts with the same target).
- Bullying is harmful (There is a short or long term physical or psychological harm to the target).

Bullying behaviour is influenced by the actions and values of peer groups, schools, families and whanau, communities and societies. A whole school and community approach is encouraged to positively influence student behaviour. We welcome ideas and input from members of our school community. We encourage students and parents/whanau to speak with us at school where there may be a concern so that we can help to resolve things and support you. We do take complaints seriously. Contact can be made with Mentors/Deans or Members of the Senior Leadership team and we will work with you to record any incidents, investigate and intervene where required to ensure that students feel safe. If you are concerned that your child may be being bullied please do get in touch with us at school.

Cath Bloxham

Guidance Counsellor

<https://bryanandbobby.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/10/ConfidentKids.pdf> a resource that you might find helpful with ideas for Parents/Caregivers



Upcoming Events Term 4 2020

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| • Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October..... | Senior Practice Exams |
| • Monday 26th October..... | Labour Day - School Closed for Instruction |
| • Wednesday 11th November..... | Last Day for Seniors, Senior Prizegiving |
| • Monday 16th November..... | NCEA Exams start |
| • Friday 4th December..... | Junior Prizegiving |

MoneyTalks

Kia ora

We would love your community to know about our free MoneyTalks service.

MoneyTalks is a free helpline available to provide free budgeting advice to individuals, family and whānau. MoneyTalks is funded by the Ministry of Social Development.

Our financial mentors can help people:

- Understand their financial situation
- Organise their debt
- Plan for the future
- Put them in touch with your local budgeting service

We communicate by phone , text , chat, email and have English, Samoan, Te Reo and Mandarin speakers.

Would you be able to display our advert in your newsletter to raise awareness about the helpline in your community?

We can also provide posters and flyers to distribute. Find out more about MoneyTalks on our website

www.moneytalks.co.nz

Nga Mihi

Clare Wilson |Quality Assurance Adviser

Level 6, 330 Lambton Quay, Wellington

PO Box 25332, Featherston Street, Wellington 6146

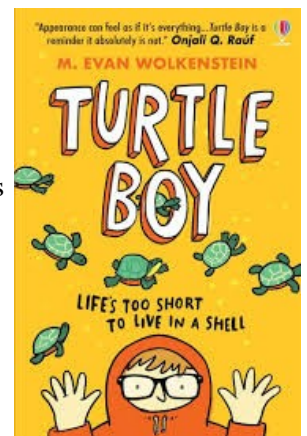
Email: clare@fincap.org.nz

Website: www.fincap.org.nz

Library

This week we have a lovely new book called Turtle Boy, written by M. Evan Wolkenstein and published by Usborne Publishing. This is an interesting story that the author has based on his own experiences growing up as a young boy with a facial deformity. For many years it consumed his life and he realised that it has stopped him from enjoying his life. A great book that is inspiring for anyone who has felt they are different. A story about courage but most of all hope.

Katrina Pudney
Librarian



Exam Timetable

	Monday 19/10	Tuesday 20/10	Wednesday 21/10	Thursday 22/10	Friday 23/10
Assemble: 8.45am Exam: 9.00am to 12.00 Workshop:	12 Maths 13 Geography 11 Art	11 Science 12 English 13 Chemistry <i>Note: some 12 English in computer rooms</i> 13 Art	12 Bio 13 English 12 Music in E1 <i>Note: 13 English 13 in computer rooms</i> 12 Art	11 Maths 12 Geography 13 Statistics 13 PE 12 Maths	Catch ups 11 History 12 Chemistry 13 Calculus <i>Note: some 11 History students in computer rooms</i> 11 PE
Assemble: 1pm Exam: 1.10pm to 4.10pm Workshop:	11 English 12 History 13 Accounting <i>Note: some 12 History students in computer rooms</i> 12 PE	12 Physics 13 History 12/13 DMT	11 Geography 11 Accounting 12 Accounting 13 Physics 12/13 Building 12/13 Graphics	13 Biology 19 11-12-13 Drama 12/13 Outdoor	Catch ups

This is the practice examination timetable for the 2020 senior practice examinations. We have moved the timing of these slightly later into the year so that they are closer to the real NCEA examinations and will provide better preparation. We have high expectations that students take these seriously and work diligently towards them.

Our exam week also includes workshops. These are an opportunity for students to complete work on their internal assessments. Teachers will inform students if they are to attend these workshops or not and it is an expectation that they do so. If there is a clash between a workshop and an examination students are to attend the examination.

If students have a clash, where they have more than one examination at a time or they miss an examination they will complete the examination at the next available time or on the Friday morning “catch up” session. If there are any issues see Mr Scarth and alternative arrangements will be made where appropriate.

If a student does not have a workshop or an examination they are expected to be revising or completing internal assessments at home on study leave.

Exam information

- Mr Scarth will call students into the Hall before the exam starts so students need to be at the front of the school 15 minutes before their exam starts.
- Students need to have their calculators, pens, pencils and other materials in a clear plastic bag.
- No mobile or electronic devices are allowed into the Hall so students need to think about the devices they bring to school.

Mr Scarth - Deputy Principal.