



South Otago High School

Newsletter 6th November 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

The term is going by so fast and next week we will farewell most of our senior students as they depart for study leave in preparation for the NCEA external exams. Whilst we acknowledge that not all senior students will have external exams we do expect that senior students will manage their time appropriately.

In a couple of weeks the Year 9 and 10 students will also be sitting their end of year exams. It is important that even though it is nearly the end of the year there is still work to be done. The holidays do not start until the end of the day of Friday 4 December. Until then we do expect that students continue to work and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

NCEA Call backs

Each year we ask senior students who are at risk of not achieving to continue to attend school to ensure that they attain the last few credits in order to gain their NCEA certificate or their goal to allow them to move on to the next step in their education or employment. This year we have just 29 students on call back. This is a continuation of reduction on the numbers of students needing to be called back. I believe that some of the changes that we have made to put students in control of their learning have supported this reduction. It is especially pleasing that we have so few this year after the disruptions due to Covid-19.

Vaping

This week the Ministry of Education have directed that schools become Vape free places. As a school we will have some changes to make. Below is a quote of some of the important aspects the Ministry of Education is expecting schools to adhere to:

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 commences on 11 November 2020, amending the Smokefree Environments Act 1990 and renaming it to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990.....

From 11 November 2020, the existing prohibition on smoking at schools is extended to include vaping.

We would ask that visitors to school respect these changes and do not use vape devices on any part of the school grounds.

In the future there will be new signage about our school to reflect these changes.

If students are found with vape devices or products in school they will be managed through the school discipline system. The vape devices/products will be placed in the school safe and parents will be asked to collect the items.

Teacher only Day

Earlier this year the Government mandated teacher only days to support the changes for NCEA which are due to be rolled out over the next few years. Due to Covid-19 the first of these was cancelled this year. However, on 17 November the staff at South Otago High School will be engaged in professional development to support the changes to NCEA. There will be no classes running on this day and teachers will not be available to assist students with exam preparation.

Uniform

With the end of the year approaching some student uniform items are wearing thin! Please support the school by either making the clothing last the final few weeks or accepting some of the loan items that the school has. Shoes in particular are a significant challenge as I realise the expense and that feet are likely to grow over the Christmas break! Again we do have some loan shoes and encouraging students to use these is a help to us.

Student Council

This year the Student Council have worked and lead the students under exceptional circumstances. During the lockdown they took the initiative and endeavoured to connect with students. They have organised events and activities and for ANZAC Day produced a video which was unique and inclusive. The Council has been exceptional and I am looking forward to taking them out for lunch next week to say thank you for their work during the year.

Finally

Next week the seniors will have their last day. As in previous years we know that departing students will be in high spirits. We expect that departing students will leave with a lasting positive impression and so will ensure that they are self managing and do not cause upset. On 11 November I look forward to celebrating the senior student achievements for 2020 at our senior prize giving event. I hope that all parents of senior students will be able to attend to acknowledge the achievements of our students.

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

NCEA Exams

Admission slips

On Wednesday students were given their admissions slips for the exams. Please encourage them to keep these in a safe place as not only do they have their personal exam timetable on them, they are also needed to get into the exam room. These should not be written on. Mr Patterson (our Exam Centre Manager) reiterated this when he met with them on Tuesday to go through exam expectations.

Digital exams

Some of our history and English students are sitting the exam digitally. Their teachers have spent time with them this week making sure that they can log into NZQA, which is how they will be accessing the exam this year. Please check with students that they are able to do this; there have been a couple of students who have experienced hiccups and need to get in touch with NZQA to reset their account (we cannot do this through school).

Covid-19

NZQA have firm guidelines for running exams safely in light of COVID. This includes students sitting at least 1.5 metres apart from each other. Any student who is unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms should not attend the exams. Under Level 1, 2 or 3 we can apply for a derived grade. We would need confirmation from a medical practitioner that the student is displaying COVID-19 symptoms as part of our application process, or the results of a COVID-19 test. We generally use exam results for our derived grades.

If you have any questions or need to apply for a derived grade, please contact me: asmith@sohs.school.nz

Amanda Smith

Principal's Nominee

Last day for seniors

Period 1 and 2

Y11 and Y12 prize winners and all Y13 students meet at the town hall for prize-giving practice at 9:00 am. The rest of Y11 and Y12 will be in class period 1 and 2 as normal.

Period 3

All seniors will be back in class

Period 4

There will be a whole school assembly to farewell Y13 leavers. Y11 and Y12 will then be dismissed and leave the grounds.

There will be a BBQ for Y13 students out the front of the school - all Y13's will leave by 2 pm.

PRIZEGIVING starts at 7:00 in the town hall. Y13 students need to bring a plate.

Jo Jory

Assistant Principal



Two nominations were received (at the close of nominations on 1st November), for the two vacancies on the Board of Trustees for the 2020 mid-cycle elections.

The successful nominees were **Jules Witt and Emma Kell**.

BOT Members are:

Jules Witt

Paul Crawford

Angela Ferguson

Bronwyn Campbell

Emma Kell

Mike Beeby (Staff Rep)

Chirag Thakkar (Student Rep)

Great opportunities for top Science students

WiE CAN

Congratulations to Annie Schofield for her recent acceptance into the Women in Engineering Canterbury University Course (WiE CAN), January 2021. This is a five-day residential programme which features a range of interactive workshops, and inspiring presentations, where students are immersed in university life and experience the range of engineering subjects on offer at the University of Canterbury. Only 60 students are selected for this course nation-wide. Special thanks to Tait Foundation for their financial support.



The Rotary Science and Technology Forum

Congratulations also to Beckham Wilson for his acceptance into the Rotary Science and Technology Forum held in Auckland, January 2021. This forum is designed for high-achieving students who have a special interest in Science, Mathematics and Technology and are intending to do further studies in this field. Special thanks to the Balclutha Rotary Clutha for their financial support.

Mr Sly

Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator



Upcoming Events Term 4 2020

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| • <i>Wednesday 11th November</i> | Last Day for Seniors, Senior Prizegiving |
| • <i>Monday 16th November</i> | NCEA Exams start |
| • <i>Tuesday 17th November</i> | Teacher Only Day |
| • <i>Monday 30th November</i> | Leadership Training Year 12* |
| • <i>Thursday 3rd December</i> | Graduation Dinner Year 13** |
| • <i>Friday 4th December</i> | Junior Prizegiving 12pm |

*Non uniform, 10am - 12pm, SOHS Library

** South Otago Town and Country Club

Junior Exam Timetable 2020

Time	Thursday 19th November	<i>Friday 20th November</i>	Monday 23rd November	Tuesday 24th November
Mentor time 8:45 to 9:00		<i>9:35 to 9:45am</i>		
9:00 to 10:00	Y10 English	<i>Y9 Social Studies 9:50 to 10:50</i>	Y9 English	Y10 Social Studies
10:00 to 11:00	Y10 English			Y10 Social Studies
Interval				
11:30 to 12:30	Y9 Maths	<i>Y10 Science</i>	Y10 Maths	Y9 Science
12:30 to 1:25			Y10 Maths	
Lunch				
2:10 to 3:10				

Year 9 and 10 students will be in the old gym for their exams at the times shown. The rest of the time students are in normal timetabled classes.

We have moved mentor time to the start of the day so that it is not in the middle of any exams. Mentors will check that students are prepared for exams with the correct equipment and attitude. Teachers will have talked to students about what equipment they need to bring to each exam to be fully prepared.

Students are strongly recommended to treat the examinations seriously and to spend time revising and studying for them. We consider them to be good preparation for NCEA examinations.

Please note that although the Friday sessions in bold have different times to the rest of the week. All exams are within normal school time and we will ensure students are in the right place at the right time.

Nigel Scarth
Deputy Principal

CAREERS & PATHWAYS NEWS

City Care Water has vacancies within the Clutha District

Water and Drainage Servicepersons – required for team in the pipe and pumpstation space

Water Treatment Plant Technicians – required for team to maintain and operate the 26 Treatment Plants in the Clutha District

Any interested school leaver should contact Mrs Cullen for more information

The **Design Your Career Youth Summit** for senior **SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS** preparing to make further education and career choices, **PARENTS** wanting to understand the emerging challenges their children will face, will be running from 9 November 2020.

This global online-only event, presented by The Ingenarium and supported by Careers England, Careers and Transition Education New Zealand and Cognita, is **FREE** to register and attend.

It will run over one week from 9 November, with all content remaining accessible to registered attendees for a limited time afterwards.

Registrations are **NOW OPEN** at www.youthcareerssummit.com
(where you can also find more information about the Event).

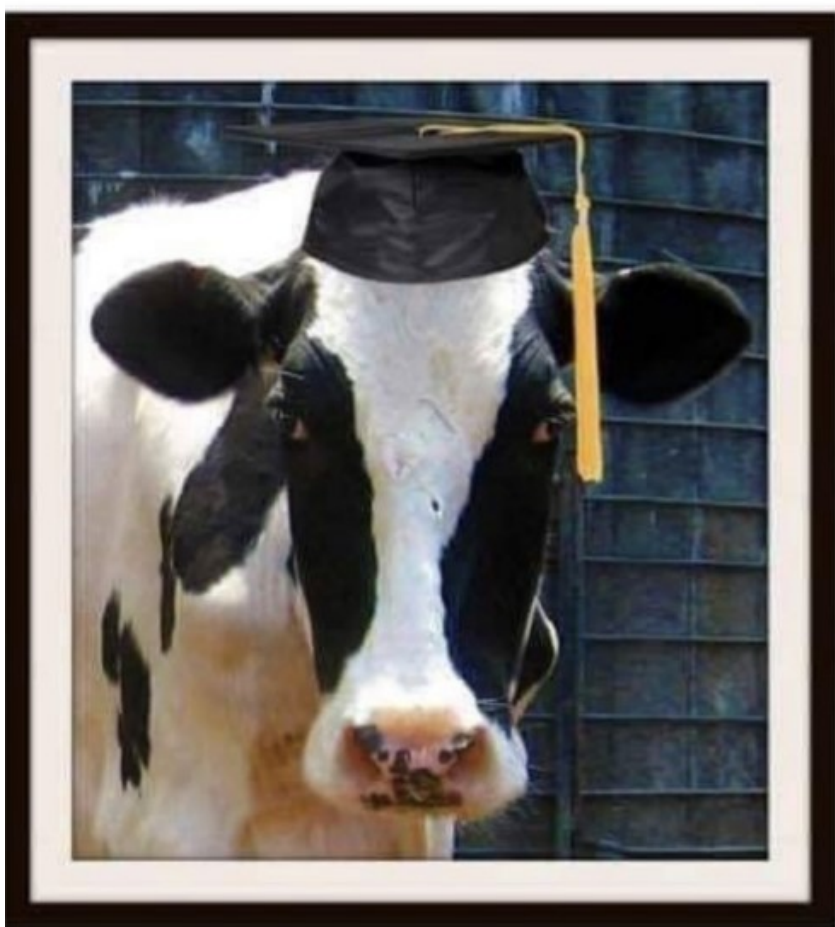
What's Included: Attendees will hear from **30+ Technologists, Educators, CEOs, Talent Managers, Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Career & Leadership Counsellors** including:

- Hon. John Anderson AO, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia
- Andrea Clarke, Bestselling Author of "Future Fit"
- Dr. Michelle Dickinson, Innovator, Adventurer, Nanogirl
- Dr. Nancy Gleason, Director Ballon Centre for Excellence in Teaching, NYU
- Kieran Gordon, Executive Director, Careers England
- Leigh Gray, Kaiarahi, Careers and Transition Education New Zealand
- Steven Lee, Managing Partner Financial Services, Ernst & Young APAC
- Prof. Louise McWhinnie, Dean of Transdisciplinary Innovation, UTS
- Cherie Perrow, National Exec. Education Portfolio Lead, Career Development Assoc. NZ.
- Anthony Salcito, Global Vice President of Microsoft Education

Join for free to discover:

- How **digital disruption** is transforming work and careers
- The **future skills and capabilities** that will be in demand, including the "soft" skills that are becoming increasingly important
- The emerging paths to career **impact and value**
- How to **prepare** for jobs that don't yet exist
- The importance of **psychological capital & mental toughness**
- What you can do to **stand out** to colleges and employers
- Tips for good education career **planning & decision making**
- How parents can **support** their kids through this process

P Cullen pcullen@sohs.school.nz



2020/21 Scholarship

Clinton/South Otago Young Farmers

We are giving away a scholarship worth up to \$1000 to a young local aged between 15 and 33 to go towards study, outward bound etc. for more information see mailing and calling details.



Studying in 2021
or already started?

Scholarship available

Up to the value of
\$1000

Clinton Young
Farmers

Locals supporting
locals

Applications to:
Bayley Coates C/O
Clinton Young Farmers

28 Toiro Road
RD3 Balclutha

02102272650

Clinton.yfc@gmail.com

Applications in by
22nd of November 2020

Senior Prizegiving
Wednesday 11th November, 2020 7.00pm
Balclutha Town Hall
All Year 13 Students are expected to attend
The following Year 11 and 12 students will be acknowledged
Any students unable to attend Senior Prizegiving , please inform the Office

Y11		Y12	
Petra	Anderson	Meg	Albarico
Mhyna	Bacud	Taylor	Atkin-Coutts
Alyssa	Batt	Akira	Baxter
Chris	Bennett	Danyon	Benington
Lillie	Buckingham	Lachlan	Bennett
Ruby	Budge	Elliott	Budge
Brayden	Campbell	Max	Burrow
Mari	Chacapna	Aushiarn	Challis
Lucy	Clark	Adam	Craig
Josh	Dent	Lachie	Crawford
Charlotte	Gilder	Olivia	Davidson
Josiah	Goodwin	Maddie	Deacon
Bree	Hale	Briana	Dent
Matthew	Hannagan	Blake	Dodds
Chloe	Henderson	Alexa	Dovey
Jessica	Hollows	Kareena	Dunlop
Oliver	Hunter	Jaxon	Evans
Anton	Hutton	Glen	Garcia
Emily	Johns	Stephanie	Gray
Lachlan	Judson	Isla	Hastie
Caleb	Luke	Holly	Hewitt
Blake	Macdonald	Keely	Hill
Ollie	Maguire	Sophie	Hunter
Fraser	McAtamney	Lane	Illing
Leah	McLaren	Lukin	James
Shania	Morado	James	Jordan
Nathan	Peoples	Gemma	Johnson
Lily	Pringle	Callum	Maze
Ty	Robertson	Hamish	Mills
Pearl	Roger	Alliyah	Minoza
Kadys	Roy	Kathryn	Monaghan
Alex	Sands	Jack	Pow
Caitlin	Scherp	Tamaralee	Rodwell
Bonnie	Shaw	Lachlan	Roy
Hayden	Sheppard	Sophie	Ruffell
Jessica	Sheppard	Annie	Schofield
Daeshaan	Stapleforth	Corey	Simonsen
Chirag	Thakkar	Ben	Smart
Emily	Unahi	Tom	Stephens
Kasey	Valli	Vera	Stirling
Luana	Valli	Emma	Stoop
		Sam	Stratford
		George	Tabberer
		Brooke	Tremaine
		Christina	Ware
		Vaughan	Watt
		Beckham	Wilson