



South Otago High School

Newsletter 13th November 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Another week gone and it has been so busy. To start the newsletter I would like to congratulate the award recipients from the senior prize giving event. It was a great night and it was wonderful to see so many students go across the stage to receive their awards.

Head students

Congratulations to the Head students for 2021, Kareena Dunlop and Sam Stratford along with their deputies, Akira Baxter and Hamish Mills. As I said prior to the announcement there was a very strong field of applicants and the decision to select the top four was very difficult. I am expecting the candidates who were not selected to be joining the student council in 2021.

Last day for seniors

Wednesday was the last day for our senior students. As may be expected there were high spirits and 'decorations'. All the antics were in good humour and entertained both staff and students. I enjoy the opportunity that the departing students have to make us all smile and provide memories for us all.

NCEA Call backs

On Monday the NCEA exams get underway for our senior students. It is also the day that call backs commence for students who are at risk of not achieving. I would hope that well before the end of the term students will have completed all of their assessments to be confident of success in NCEA.

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.

Moving on

It is always exciting when one of our students has

the opportunity to do something different. This week I learnt that Annie Schofield (Y12) has been accepted into dance school in Christchurch for next year to train in ballet as well as continue with her academic study. Annie will have the opportunity to train with other aspiring ballet students and may have the opportunity to perform in the future. This is a wonderful and exciting opportunity and we wish Annie well in the future.

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.

Finally

Whilst this week has been busy and we have said farewell to the senior students there may be a thought that the rest of the school is on 'wind down'. Despite the seniors departing there is still a lot to be done. Junior classes are preparing for end of year assessments, teachers are preparing exams and completing assessments. They are also reviewing the programmes for 2020 with a view to what is to be offered in 2021.

The senior leadership team are also engaged in reviews as well as planning and preparing for the new school year. We also have new appointments to make as staffing for the new school year becomes very important.

Add into this the preparation and organisation of the end of year activities which are put on for Year 9 and 10 students and it is easy to see how the work of the school does not wind down and in fact becomes one of the most busy times of the school year.

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

NCEA Exams

Admission slips

Last week 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.

Digital exams

Some of our history and English students are sitting the exam digitally. Please check that students who are sitting exams digitally are able to log into NZQA. While teachers have worked with them, 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 please email me: asmith@sohs.school.nz

Amanda Smith

Principal's Nominee

School Magazine

Orders for the school magazine have been sent to the printers. If you have not paid for the magazine it will be removed from your account and you will not receive a magazine.

School Compost Bins

Science Fair

Hi School, Savana and Sam are doing a science fair project. For this they are trying to benefit the community by encouraging people to use the school compost bins. Please support our science fair project by composting your compost in the back of S-block and in front of the junior technology block.

Savana Mott-Wright and Sam Affleck

Year 9





Senior Prizegiving 2020



Last Day for Year 13's 2020



Southland Polyfest 2020



The School Council enjoy lunch out this week



Junior Exam Timetable 2020

Time	Thursday 19th November	Friday 20th November	Monday 23rd November	Tuesday 24th November
Mentor time 8:45 to 9:00		9:35 to 9:45am		
9:00 to 10:00	Y10 English	Y9 Social Studies 9:50 to 10:50	Y9 English	Y10 Social Studies
10:00 to 11:00	Y10 English			Y10 Social Studies
Interval				
11:30 to 12:30	Y9 Maths	Y10 Science 11:30 to 12:30	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

Upcoming Events Term 4 2020

- *Monday 16th November*..... NCEA Exams start
- *Tuesday 17th November*..... Teacher Only Day
- *Monday 30th November*..... Leadership Training Year 12*
- *Thursday 3rd December*..... Graduation Dinner Year 13**
- *Friday 4th December*..... Junior Prizegiving 12pm

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

** South Otago Town and Country Club



Do you have a full drivers licence? Do you have some spare time?

Then come join the Drive My Life driver training programme in South Otago!!

Due to the success of the programme, we are looking for more volunteer mentors to teach people how to drive.

You will be police vetted

You will be provided with a professional driving lesson yourself before you start teaching others

You set the hours/times that you take the driving lessons

A vehicle is supplied for the lessons

If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, please contact us for more information

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