



South Otago High School

Newsletter 20th November 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

I would like to start by welcoming the parents of the Year 8 students who will be starting with us at South Otago High School in 2021 as Year 9's. We look forward to seeing our new students start next year and I hope that as parents you will continue your involvement in your child's education as they progress through the High School.

Junior Exams

This week the junior exams have been underway and will continue in the first part of next week. It is good to see so many students treating these seriously and wanting to perform at their best. We have noted some absences and will provide an opportunity for those students who have missed these assessments to complete them as soon as they are able to return to school.

NCEA Exams

The NCEA external assessments are also taking place this week. I would like to remind students who have these external exams that they should prepare all their equipment in good time. This week we have had a number of students arrive without their exam admission slips and this creates unnecessary stress for students. The school is able to print replacement slips if necessary and so students should not panic.

Year 8 visits

As well as all of the exams we have had the new Year 8 students visit to look round the school and also meet some of the teachers. I enjoyed meeting

the students briefly and have encouraged all of them to seize the opportunities that they will be offered as a student of South Otago High School. I am looking forward to formally welcoming them to school on Monday 1 February 2021 when we will host our Mihi Whakatau.

Continuing success

Last week at the senior prize giving I said to our departing senior students that I hoped that they would return and share their success stories- in years to come. So, this Thursday it was a pleasure when **Sophie Mills (Head girl and Dux, 2016)** popped into school and I managed to have a brief conversation with her. Sophie is studying medicine at Otago University and has just completed her third year of study with Distinction. Naturally, we are very proud of Sophie's success and congratulate her on her achievement so far. As I have said in the past, graduates from South Otago High School can achieve at the highest level and continue to experience success beyond school.

Finally

With just two weeks until the end of the year, we do still have a lot to complete including the end of year activities for Year 9 and 10 students. We do expect all students to participate in the activities and there are a broad range of options to suit all interests and budgets. If there is a real struggle to pay for activities please do get in contact with me and we can discuss how we can help.

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Upcoming Events Term 4 2020

- 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

Upcoming Events Term 1 2021

- Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January..... Course Confirmation for Years 11, 12 and 13
- Friday 29th January Year 9 and Year 13 Students start School (8.30am)
- Monday 1st February..... Full School start Term 1
- Monday 8th February..... Waitangi Day School Closed for Instruction

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

Clutha District Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

We would love to see as many students as possible getting involved in this summer's reading challenge. Receive rewards along the way and at the end of the programme receive a \$20 book voucher. Register online: www.cluthadc.govt.nz/libraries. Any student who completes the challenge, can catch up with Ms Smith next year for an extra reward.

Amanda Smith

HOD English

An invitation to our Annual SOHS Year 11 and 12 Visual Art Portfolio Display



Artwork – Luana Valli Year 11

Wednesday 25th of November 5 - 6pm Technology Breakout space

Junior Exam Timetable 2020

Time	Monday 23rd November	Tuesday 24th November
Mentor time 8:45 to 9:00		
9:00 to 10:00	Y9 English	Y10 Social Studies
10:00 to 11:00		Y10 Social Studies
Interval		
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