



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

International Department Newsletter Terms Four 2020

Many people are very happy to see this unprecedented year come to a close. While it has thrown many new stresses and challenges at everybody, our students have extended themselves and succeeded in academic, cultural, and sporting activities.

Bravery and resilience are plenty in all our students as they navigate their lives in New Zealand accepting all the challenges that come their way. This year our international students and English language learners come from Japan, Thailand, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Germany, Vietnam, Samoa, Pakistan, Syria, and Afghanistan.



Sol Kwon doing her reading at Celebration Service.



Years 12 & 13 Outdoor Education

Term 4 was jam-packed with school events. Outdoor education classes continued their outdoor pursuits, Year 10s visited Puketeraki Marae at Karitane, had first aid training, and then went on camps at the end of the term. We had our annual sports awards evening, and the always-enjoyed Celebration Service at Knox Church. Our International Farewell was held on 11 November where we praised

the achievements of our students.



Letitia Shen playing in the orchestra.

This term is also a time when their studies come to an end and all year levels have examinations. NCEA dates were pushed back a week which meant the examinations didn't finish until the last school day of the year, when the Year 13s had their graduation ball.



Chris Huynh with her host parents after prize giving.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who won awards at Prize Giving, and especially Chris Huynh who was 5th aggregate in Year 13. Lists of academic achievers and prize winners is below.



Textiles students wearing the outfits they made.

Year 10 Camp: Claire Leung

Claire joined the Peel Forest camp which is near Geraldine. It is a very popular camp and she was very lucky to go and have such amazing experiences.

The best thing that happened this year was the Year 10 camp. I went to Peel Forest with other students and we did a lot of things over there. We did a river crossing, horse riding, and we even walked up a big hill. We also went to a primary school. I enjoyed going to the primary school because I liked playing with them and I like seeing their big smiles on their faces.



Persian Pasta

During the NCEA exams, some students showed us how to make food from their country. Fatemah and Zeinab Azimi made Persian pasta, and Maria Al Helal made a broad bean dish. We took pictures throughout the whole process so the students could learn all the vocabulary, etc. for making these delicious meals. Both dishes were very tasty and the lucky people who got to eat them were very happy.



Term 3 Academic Achievers

English Language

Elementary: Parisa Moradi

Intermediate: Marino Kato

Senior: Chloe Zhang

11 Mathematics with Graphs: Hiroka Ryu

11 Design & Visual Communication: Naya Ghazzoul

11 Dance: Christine Hu

12 English Literacy: Dora Xue

12 Mathematics with Algebra: Evelyn Wei, Lindsay Hu, Sol Kwon

12 Outdoor Education: Lea May

12 Physics: Chloe Zhang

12 Chemistry: Hermione Hai

12 Design & Visual Communication: Evelyn Wei

12 Art Photography: Letitia Shen

13 History: Chris Huynh

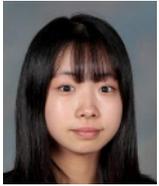
13 Music: Annsen Chan

13 Mandarin: Mel Prathep

Leavers Term 4

We are always proud of the achievements of our students, and we are saddened when we have to say good bye to them. We held our International Farewell on November 11 after the seniors had finished their classes. Below are the citations for each student as well as Will's speech she gave as the International Prefect.

Year 11

<p>Riko Hirayama</p> 	<p>Riko has been with us only this year and has been able to see several natural highlights through her outdoor education class. She has been tramping, camping, skiing, and played basketball. She is also very interested in hip-hop dance. Her outdoor education teacher said, "Made wonderful progress with her mountain biking skills, willing to challenge herself and participate in all the outdoor pursuit activities." Her best memory of this year has been the school skip trip to Queenstown. We wish Riko well for her next year in Christchurch.</p>
<p>Marino Kato</p> 	<p>Marino is a one-year exchange student from Edogawa school in Tokyo, Japan. She is also an active person and has played basketball, gone on the school ski trip, and outdoor education pursuits. The comment from her outdoor education teacher is, "Marino made the most of the opportunities offered in Outdoor Education. She made wonderful progress with developing her skills in climbing, mountain biking, orienteering, kayaking, tramping and camping. Her perseverance to take on many challenges and support other students' learning was commendable. She really enjoyed learning the skills of kayaking and can feel proud of achievements. Marino is a motivated student who has worked hard throughout the year to improve both her practical skills and theoretical knowledge of the outdoors." Her best memory of the year was the mountain biking camp with Year 11 outdoor education.</p>

Chloe Lai



Chloe is a very musical person and she has been part of the jazz band and performed at the Celebration Service, as well as in the Dunedin Youth Jazz Festival where they got the runner-up prize. Not surprising, her highlight has been her music lessons. We hope Chloe continues with her music and has a happy time upon her return to Hong Kong.

Year 12

Lea May



Lea has had quite a remarkable time at OGHS. She devoured many books at her host family which led to many intelligent discussions. She has also challenged herself by studying Japanese and Maori where she has been an academic achiever.

Her Maori teacher commented that Lea entered their reo Māori class with no Māori at all. She has worked diligently throughout the year, and although she is not sitting NCEA, has taken part in all internal assessments and in preparation for externals. In both, she "achieved" Merit grades. This is an outstanding effort and we are very sorry that she is not continuing. She has always been positive and mature in her attitude - a great role model as an active learner.

The activities Lea has taken on are: tennis give-it-a-go, sailing, surfing, plant club, and many outdoor education activities with her year 12 class. She played rugby for the first time and made wonderful progress with developing her skills and learning the rules of the game. She was always a positive and committed member of the team who often helped after trainings and games with putting away gear.

She has also volunteered at the farmer's market and Quarantine Island. Lea has made many great friends and her highlights of the year have been getting to know the other international students, and outdoor education. We know Lea has a very bright future ahead of her and we look forward to keeping in touch to see what she does. We wish her the very best for her return to Germany.

Letitia Shen



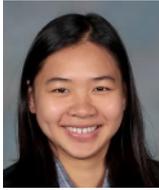
What a talented artist Letitia is! She was artist of the week three times. Her work was also in the Celebrate art awards, and won first place in the Isolation Art Competition from the Dunedin Youth Council. She received a certificate of excellence for visual art this year. A comment from one of her teachers was, "Letitia is a radiant student. She tackles challenges head on and works with determination and diligence.

A young talent." Letitia is also musical and was part of the school orchestra and performed in Celebration Service, which was her highlight of the year. She is one to watch out for in the international art scene and we are very sorry she won't be here next year so we can observe many more artistic creations. We hope she continues to excel in art and music back in China. All the best, Letitia.

Year 13

<p>Judy Xu</p> 	<p>Judy comes from our sister school of Guangming in Shanghai and has been with us since July 2018. She is a talented artist and has shown her great skills in DVC. She has been awarded artist of the week and her beautiful work has been displayed. We hope Judy will continue in this field and produce many more fine works of art. All the best for your future studies, Judy.</p>
<p>Elaina Yang</p> 	<p>Elaina comes from our sister school of Guangming in Shanghai, China and was one of the students who started in July 2018. Elaina quickly showed her English and academic ability and got NCEA Level 2 with Merit. She has also been a very good Japanese language student.</p> <p>During her time here, Elaina has played badminton, went on the school ski trips, and on year 12 biology camp to Borland.</p> <p>Her highlight of her time is the 2020 Celebration Service, something that is very special to our school and students. Elaina will surely be successful in her university studies and we look forward to hearing about her progress. We wish you well for what lies ahead.</p>
<p>Dain Kim</p> 	<p>I can remember when Dain started back in August of 2016, a quiet little girl from Korea. She has changed greatly during her time and has matured into a fine, young person.</p> <p>Dain exemplifies diligence, integrity, and is self-driven. She has worked incredibly hard on developing her English language skills and has shown such growth in this over her years of schooling. She is adept at setting goals and putting in the work to achieve her aims.</p> <p>Dain distinguishes herself from other students in her willingness to always take the learning to the next level, to not settle for simple explanations and to delve deeper. She is an independent learner with excellent study habits and a passion for Science. She extended her chemistry knowledge and skill by being a member of the schools Saturday morning Healthy Harbour watch team. In this role she was responsible for environmental water monitoring across four sites in Otago Harbour and determining the chemical and microbial composition of seawater using a range of analytical chemistry techniques.</p> <p>All her academic work has been rewarded with exceptional results. She achieved NCEA levels 1 and 2 with excellence, along with commendations and distinctions for various subjects. She is most likely to continue to receive fine results this year.</p> <p>Aside from studying hard, Dain has played social sports: badminton, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and table tennis. She has been on two camps: in Year 10 and Year 12 to Borland.</p> <p>Dain's highlights of her years with us have been the Year 12 formal, and four events from this year: sports day, cultural day, Harbour Watch programme, and the Celebration Service.</p>

**Chris
Huynh**



We welcomed Chris to our school in July 2017, and have been very happy to have such a fantastic person. She was able to go on Year 10 camp only a few months after arriving here. Chris has a great sense of humour, is an excellent communicator who has made the most of her time here.

She is always looking for a challenge, showing her excellent problem solving skills, and intelligence. Her academic awards have been: excellence endorsements in levels 1 and 2, along with endorsements in many subjects. She also entered the NZ Engineering Science Competition 2020.

Chris has had amazing academic results each year, and has extended her chemistry knowledge and skill by being a member of the schools Saturday morning Healthy Harbour watch team. In this role she was responsible for environmental water monitoring across four sites in Otago Harbour and determining the chemical and microbial composition of seawater using a range of analytical chemistry techniques.

Chris has been a peer tutor, and peer support leader where part of her role was to help on Year 9 camp. This can always be a challenge and she even managed to play sport after returning exhausted from the one-night camp. Two years helping out as a school librarian

Her drive for challenge is not just limited to her studies. She has been our first Vietnamese rugby player as has played rugby 7s, 10s, touch rugby, and senior rugby. If that isn't enough, she has played social sports as well in basketball, volleyball, tennis, and badminton. Rock climbing has also been conquered!

As you can tell by this recital of accomplishments, Chris is going to do incredible things in the future. Please leave our school with fond memories of the numerous activities, and your highlights of Year 12 Borland camp, Healthy Harbour Watch Programme, and the Year 13 medley at Celebration Service. All the very best!

**Mel
Prathep**



Mel is completing her fourth year of study at OGHS. It has been such a pleasure to see her growth over these years and the fine young lady she has become. She has always welcomed new international students and helped many to settle into life here. Mel has made many wonderful and dear friends with her fellow internationals.

She has been involved in several sports: badminton, volleyball, squash, handball, basketball, table tennis. She has a very good volleyball serve. Mel has also joined the school ski trip and Year 12 Borland camp, and volunteered at Quarantine Island, a favourite place for many international students.

Mel has achieved academic success with many accolades in Mandarin as a second language, as well as general science. She was twice a third place prize winner for the New Zealand Chinese Calligraphy Competition (Hard Pen, Intermediate and Secondary Non-Native Category).

I am very sad to see Mel leave but I know the time has come and she must leave her OGHS shell. There must be many happy memories to take away, and her highlights have been the Year 12 Borland biology camp, and the Year 13 medley and the Celebration Service this year. Go well, and go happy, Mel!

**Annsen
Chan**



Since Annsen started at OGHS in October 2017, which was just in time to join Year 10 camp, she has fully immersed herself in life and the culture of our school and community. There are just so many activities that Annsen has participated in that it is hard to name them all. Sports wise, she has been part of social basketball and volleyball teams. Music wise, she has been in choirs with just OGHS, and the OGHS-OBHS combined choirs. She was a singer in choir that was part of Abby Wolfe's music video, performed in the Polyfest showcase, and was in the senior production. All her musical pursuits have brought many awards. The choirs she has been a part of have been highly commended at Big Sing, and received trophies for composition.

Annsen has been involved in so many school activities. She brings humour and positivity to her learning and has crafted strong dramatic performances for a variety of purposes. Her work in Senior Production in 2019 and 2020 demonstrated her skills at collaboration and inclusivity as she made the rehearsal process and backstage area a positive space for all.

Annsen has also earned academic achievements for music, Chinese; certificates of excellence for choir and senior productions, and a blues certificate for the choir and production.

Annsen's Maths teacher in Year 11 said, "I got to meet her lovely parents when they came over to visit. So good to see her in the choir and making the most of her time here. She was a conscientious worker and a bit of fun, especially after a sugar hit."

As well as all of those amazing things, Annsen has been an amazing big sister to many new students from Hong Kong over the years. She has helped them settle in to life here and been a tremendous help to the international staff and teachers at school. She has a very positive and bubbly presence around the school, participates fully and takes responsibility.

Annsen's highlight of her years at OGHS is the "Choir on Tour" for competing in Cadenza2019.

We have been so glad to have Annsen as an integral part of our school and international department and wish her the very best for her future.



**Will
Chomchoei**



Will and her sister started at our school in March 2018. This year, Will has been our international prefect and has done a stunning job. She has many ideas on how to have fun and integrate people from various backgrounds, schools, and countries. She has set the bar very high for any aspiring international prefects.

During her time in Dunedin, Will has been very involved. She was brave and went on the Year 10 camp to the Divide (Routeburn), went skiing with the school, volunteered at Toitu Museum, the farmer's market, and Quarantine Island, been part of the planting club, Duke of Edinburgh, and the Launch trip. Will has also been part of badminton, squash, tennis, sailing, and volleyball. Her and Well organised give-it-a-go tennis after school last term where they also coached the girls.

Will works incredibly hard in challenging subjects, and is always cheerful and reliable. Amazingly talented in drawing and architectural drawing, Will has received awards for this. Some of these are:

- School of Design Secondary Schools Awards Exhibition Overall Excellence-Architectural Studies
- SVA (student volunteer army)
- Duke of Edinburgh
- I AM CAPABLE through Otago Polytechnic
- academic achiever in several subjects.
- technology blue

She is also a member of the Study Dunedin summer programme advisory group where she has attended meetings with Mrs Stephenson and spoken on behalf of international high school students in Dunedin.

When a person is so involved, there are likely to be many memorable times. Her highlights are: Quarantine Island Trip, Y10 Divide Trip, Celebration, Sports Day, sailing regatta, Learning DVC and Launch Trip.

We could not have asked, or expected, more from our international prefect this and we are all so very proud of her commitment to the school and her fellow students. Her caring nature and incredible skills will aid her in reaching very high heights in the future. Keep aiming for the stars!

Speech by International Prefect: Will Chomchoei

Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to our 2020 International Farewell. I hope you are enjoying the afternoon so far. My name is Will Lalitpat Chomchoei and I am the International Prefect this year.

Have you ever thought about living in another part of the world where everything is completely different from where you are living right now. I didn't!

You might be wondering why I am standing here right now if you haven't had the idea of studying abroad before. Anyhow, I am here and now this is already my third and last year studying in this school.

]

Time flies. I can still remember when I first arrived at Dunedin airport. Mrs Stephenson, my host mom and my host dad were there. I can also remember my first day as well as my first week at OG's clearly. My sister and I were sitting in the ESOL room all day every day reading some book because we didn't have a timetable.

As it now comes to the end of my last year, this means that my time at Otago Girls' High School will end soon.

Yesterday, when I was emptying my locker, I suddenly thought about my very first day at this school. When I walked past the library, I remembered many memories that I had there whether they were the time I first walked into this school wearing casual clothes with an empty bag on the back OR the time I said goodbye to our friends who were flying back home. I walked into the library, picture of me when I first met Mrs Smallfield to have a school ID photo taken. Everything was so fresh that I can't believe it was actually two or three years ago.

Everything helps to form me to be what I am today and what I will become in the future. I have to say thank you to Ms Miller, Mrs Stephenson, Mrs Boomer, Mrs Molloy, Mrs Chapman, and every staff member, my host family and all my friends as well as my family back home. I really enjoy spending time here.

I can't say thank you enough for what you have done for me and every international student. I would like to use this opportunity to say that you to you on behalf of international students. When we came to New Zealand, every single one of us was worried and nervous but you made us feel welcome, we met new people, we made new friends, and we found our second family. Every single one of us has so many precious memories that have been created along the way while we are studying and living here.

And today we also have a little card to say thank you for what you have done for us all this time.

2020 OGHS Prize Winners (awarded Tuesday 8 December)

Year 9

Rawya Al Khoder	English Language Commendation
Parisa Moradi	English Language, and Dance Commendations
Hebe Leung	English Language, and Mathematics Distinctions

Year 10

Claire Leung	English Language Distinction
Zahraa Al Naes	English Language Commendation

Year 11

Christine Hu	Dance Distinction
Ella Xu	Mathematics with Probability Distinction
Maram About Agha	Mathematics with Probability Commendation
Rama Allo	English Language Commendation



Fatemah Azimi	English Language Commendation
Naya Ghazzoul	Hard Materials Commendation
Marino Kato	English Language Commendation
Chloe Iai	Food and Nutrition, and Science Commendations
Hiroka Ryu	English, and Science Commendations
Fuzheng Zhang	English Language Commendation

Year 12

Lindsay Hu	Mathematics with Algebra Commendation
Sol Kwon	Physics Distinction, Biology, Chemistry, Japanese, and Mathematics with Algebra Commendations
Well Chomchoei	Design and Visual Communication, and Textiles Distinctions
Chloe Zhang	English Language, and English Literacy Distinctions, Physics Commendations
Racha Aljomaa	English Language Commendation
Naghm Ghazzoul	English Commendation
Hermione Hai	Chemistry, and English Commendations
Daibaihe Jiang	Level 1 Japanese Commendation
Julia Ma	English Language, English Literacy, and Japanese Commendations
Evelyn Wei	Design and Visual Communication, and Mathematics with Algebra Commendations

Year 13

Will Chomchoei	Design and Visual Communication Distinction, English, and Hard Materials Commendations
Mel Prathep	Mandarin Distinction, Science Commendation
Elaina Yang	The Jacinda Brown Memorial Prize for Distinction for Japanese, Chemistry Commendation
Rania Allo	English Language Commendation
Annsen Chan	Music Commendation
Chris Huynh	Chemistry, History, Mathematics with Calculus, Mathematics with Statistics, and Physics Commendations

Special

Sol Kwon	Poulter Prize for Orchestral Music
----------	------------------------------------

Service

Will Chomchoei	International Prefect
----------------	-----------------------

Prestige

Will Chomchoei	Global Citizen Award
Chris Huynh	5th Aggregate

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Term 1 2021 Start Dates		
January 25	Office Opens	
January 28 & 29	Senior Course Confirmation	(1:00 - 4:00)
February 1	Year 9	(9:00)
	Internationals	(11:30)
	Peer Support Leaders	(9:00)
	Peer Support & Prefect Training	(10:0 - 3:00)
February 2-4	Full School	(8:50)
February 5	150th Celebration	
February 8	Waitangi Day Observed (School Closed)	



Will Chomchoei with the Global Citizen Award