



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

International Department Newsletter Terms Three-Four 2021

We thought 2020 was a year like to no other, and then we have had 2021 which has presented the world with even more challenges. As with last year, we are pleased to have completed the school year and glad our schooling in Dunedin wasn't as affected as in other parts of the country. We have still had many students succeed in a variety of academic, cultural, and sporting activities, and have enjoyed seeing them achieve new highs.



Our international and English language students are from China, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Samoa. These students continue to astonish us in what they are capable of accomplishing in the time they have been in New Zealand. We are very proud of how resilient the international students are as they are still smiling and positive, even though they still cannot return home for the holidays. The host families we have are absolutely amazing. Some of them have been with the school for close to 30 years, and some have hosted consistently, including summer holidays, for two years with the students unable to go home and return to New Zealand as they usually do.

Although the last two terms of the year were interrupted with a lockdown, we were fortunate to be able to hold sporting and cultural events with revised protocols. Open Night, Celebration Service, prize givings, and the senior and junior productions all went ahead with changes to audiences and venues. The day before lockdown was announced, a Cultural Day event was held at lunch time, then again in the evening for the Muslim students and their mothers. The very talented students performed on both occasions, then the Afghan group and the



Syrian group sang for Celebration Service. The senior parallel exams and Speech New Zealand ESOL oral exams were delayed but their results were still fine. This year, we held two farewells for the year 13 students. One for the internationals, and one for the former refugees. Citations were read for each student and they were given a certificate from the school. Their citations are below.



With the move to a late start date for NCEA exams, the year 13 formal had to be postponed and was held in the school hall on December 14. The vibe was great, plenty of dancing and delicious food were on offer. Most of the year 13s attended and it was very wonderful seeing them all dressed up and looking beautiful.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who won awards at the prize giving ceremonies, and especially Lindsay Hu, Hermione Hai, and Sol Kwon who won prestige academic awards. Lists of prize winners are below. Due to university entrance exams in home countries, Sol Kwon and Erina Yamaguchi had to return home before the end of the final term. They were unable to attend prize giving and sit their external NCEA exams.

Sadly, we have had to farewell a number of staff members, several who have been at our school for many years. We applaud their dedication to the school and the immense care they have show the students and colleagues during their time with us. The leaving members are: Linda Miller, Jane Smallfield, Rose Gordon, Ian Phillips, Rebecca Fleury, Simon Edmunds, Sunny Yan, and Luke Fussell. We wish them all the best in their following endeavours.



Message from the Principal: Linda Miller

Kia ora koutou

The past two years have been extremely challenging ones for international education. This is particularly so for international students and their families who have been faced with deciding between giving up their dream of an international education or not getting to see each other for over two years.

With the border restrictions due to Covid-19 still in place we have gone from an international student roll of around 50 to only nine for the 2022 academic year. Despite this our students have enjoyed amazing successes with our Year 13 graduates well prepared for their tertiary studies.

We continue to prepare for the opening of the borders, when we will once again be able to welcome international students into our school. Our International Director, Mrs Stephenson, and our International Dean, Mrs Boomer, continue to support our current students, their families and homestays, and maintain links with our sister schools and agents abroad. Otago Girls' is ready and waiting!



After 10 years as principal of Otago Girls' High School, I am stepping down from the role to take up a position with the University of Auckland in 2022. It has been an honour and a privilege to lead this fantastic school, which turned 150 years old this year. It was with great disappointment that we were forced to cancel the Jubilee Celebrations planned to mark this event.

One of the highlights of my time at the school has been my involvement with the International Programme. Having the opportunity to travel offshore to market the school meant that I got to meet students and their families at the very beginning of their journey as an international student and could watch them grow and develop over the years they were at Otago Girls'. Even more special were the times I got to meet with alumni in their home country and find out what exciting things they were doing with their lives since leaving the school. We are always greatly interested and immensely proud of our ex-girls.

Taking over from me as principal is Mrs Bridget Davidson. Hopefully you will get to meet her in person once international travel is possible again.

Congratulations to all students who have completed another year at Otago Girls'. Your resilience and commitment to your studies is incredible and you are a real credit to your families.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school and our students over the years. Agents, families, students, ex-girls, host families and staff have all contributed to the success of our programme and the success of our students.

Ngā mihi
Linda Miller
Principal Otago Girls' High School

Leavers: Internationals



Baihe Jiang



Baihe is a respectful, determined, hardworking student, and is always polite and helpful to others. She has blossomed this year and it was delightful to see her take part in the annual Japanese speech competition held by our sister city society. She even came away with second prize! She also won a spot in the school tunnel art competition.

Another teacher said Baihe is a straight-shooting student who always asks questions when she isn't sure of the next steps. She is an able mathematician who will help others around her to understand. Baihe must have a natural talent for maths as she said she did self-learning for that subject last year as she couldn't understand her Scottish teacher.

And from Mr Edmonds: Baihe is an inquisitive, thoughtful person who is excited to explore concepts in depth. This year, she had really come out of her shell in terms of being prepared to approach others, work in groups, and speak in front of audiences. She is amazingly creative, with a real gift for Art and Design, and has a strong future in related industries should she choose to go down that path. She has taken a life-drawing evening class at the Polytech and is interested in studying design in the future.

Her highlight is a unique one, which is sleeping on a cushion or a sofa in school. Our highlight has been seeing a delightful person blossom.

Julia Ma



Julia is a diligent student who always completes work efficiently and to a high standard, is constantly focused and has achieved consistently throughout the years she has been here. She is friendly and approachable, and is willing to take on feedback in order to improve her work. She is artistically able and has been the artist of the week, which has been her highlight. She has also joined the school ski trip and the international programme in 2019. Her future is bright in the world of fine art.

Evelyn Wei



Evelyn is another international student who has taken advantage of being able to follow her passion and study the subject she thoroughly enjoys at high school. She has been a great student in the art and technology departments by studying hard materials and DVC. She has also been an artist of the week. This year, she was highly commended in the Otago Polytech Celebrate design awards for her architectural design. She has been outstanding this year in both DVC and Hard Materials in terms of quality of work, attitude and dedication. This sets her up perfectly for her future hope of studying architecture at university.

Dr Martin wrote the following about Evelyn: Evelyn is an intelligent and sophisticated student who has developed a fluent understanding of the English language in order to access texts of considerable complexity. She has written essays on Shakespeare's Hamlet and Eliot's Prufrock that were perceptive and original. She is to be commended for working so diligently at her command of the English language in order to be able appreciate works of great literature that are difficult even for native speakers. She is also a musician and a well mannered young woman. I wish her all the best for her future endeavours. Dr Martin.

Evelyn was part of the international group who performed at this year's Culture Day, and has also been part of Christmas prayers at church. Her school highlights have been getting NCEA Level 2 endorsed with Excellence, and the school ski trip last year where she had a good time and made some new friends.

She wrote that she is glad that she met lots of friendly people and has many lovely memories here. These two years will be the most fabulous time she has experienced in her life.

Dora Xue



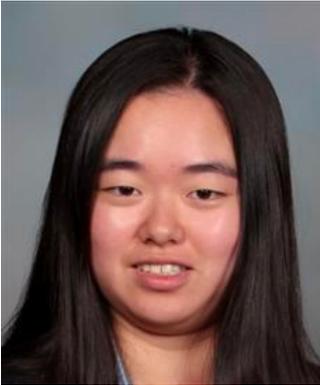
The comments from Dora's teachers have been quite similar. They commented that she has always been a very hardworking student, always tries her best and achieves at a very high level, is conscientious and determined, works hard every day and always is focussed in class.

She is proud of her Level 2 Excellence endorsement. She has been another member of the popular school ski trip, and another volunteer at Lan Yuan, Dunedin's Chinese Garden.

Her school highlight has been meeting seven pretty and sweet friends (Chloe, Julia, Rebecca, Lindsay, Hermione, Evelyn, and Jessica).

In the future, Dora hopes to be a hotel manager and I am sure she will do a superb job.

Jessica Xue



Jessica is a very diligent, dedicated student who has made the most of the academic opportunities at Otago Girls' High School. She has taken part in a range of out of class activities and can interact well with students from a range of other backgrounds.

Words from her English teacher: Jessica is a quiet and diligent student who has challenged herself with her study of English literature. She has written perceptive essays on the poetry of T. S. Eliot and the drama of Shakespeare. Jessica has also confidently presented her ideas to the class in English about her schooling in China and New Zealand. She has matured greatly during her time at Otago Girls' and I wish her all the best for her future studies.

Jessica has enjoyed the annual Celebration Service, ski trip, volunteering at the Chinese Garden (Lan Yuan), and travelling around New Zealand during the holidays. She has been an academic achiever for level 3 photography, and last year won third prize for the 11th New Zealand Chinese Calligraphy Competition.

Her future hopes are to study media and communication.

Chloe Zhang



Chloe is another member of the economics class which seems to have quite a number of internationals. She is a head-down, get things done type of person. She gets on well with her peers and they work well together in their group. Her statistics teacher commented that Chloe has a very sharp mathematical understanding with an uncanny ability to ask only the most difficult of questions. You know when she asks something you're really going to have to think carefully about it.

She also takes Mandarin, English, and calculus which will all help her with her future endeavours of studying finance at university and to become a CFO (chief financial officer) as her mother is. Chloe has a sound base as she gained NCEA last year with excellence, and she is well on track to being endorsed this year.

Linh Vu



It has been said more than once that Linh is a determined learner who always strives to do her best every day. She is good at asking questions and is always a friendly face in class. She has been working part-time and has been an academic achiever. She has been studying biology, chemistry and food technology, which will help her in her future studies of food science at university. Her highlight has been hanging out with friends in and outside of school.

Erina Yamaguchi



Erina is very supportive of her classmates in Japanese, and willingly works with them to complete interaction activities. In economics this year, she has made new friends and worked to her best ability. She endeavours to deepen her understanding in her subjects.

She has come out of her shell during her three years with us and it is good to see her positive qualities. She was a member of the plant club where she learnt to propagate, care for and plant out plants, and hopefully she will put these skills to use in the future.

Erina has played sport with school and volunteered in the community. Her highlight has been the colourful sports day.

She hopes to study international business at university in Japan.

Joyce Wang



Joyce is creative and talented with her fashion drawings and designs. She has amazing ideas and is developing the skills to create them. She works diligently and quietly.

Joyce has made some very pleasing progress in terms of being prepared to put herself in challenging or uncomfortable positions, such as speaking or performing in front of an audience, and persevering to gain the experience or grade she desired. She is a very creative student who works steadily and seldom gets distracted by others.

Joyce has many positive attributes and when she is ready to set them in place, it will be amazing to see what she will do.

Sol Kwon



I am not sure if I can state all of the activities Sol has been involved in, and all the awards she has won since she started here in August of Year 10. It is such a stunning list of accomplishments in academic and cultural pursuits.

She has also been a part of school sports, environment, and music groups, and been another volunteer at the Farmer's Market, Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, Quarantine Island and Murray McGeorge Toy Library. She has attained the Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh, and Bronze in the Student Volunteer Army.

Sol is a humble, diligent young woman who has the capacity to achieve at very high level

She has a huge capacity for work, always works with full commitment and seeks to know how to improve her understanding.

Sol is meticulous and consistently completes work to a very high standard. She excelled in the annual Dunedin Otago sister city society speech competition by gaining first place. She has also gained high distinction in listening and reading in the Australian Languages Certificate.

There are numerous academic prizes she has won since year 10, and I expect there will be more in the future as she hopes to become a chemistry professor one day. Sol was able to join Hands-On at Otago, and Astronomy Camp at Canterbury University.

Her highlights have been Sports Day, Celebration, flute lessons & orchestra with Mr McLaren. And her interesting fact has been walking in crocs for 20km in a day on the DOE (Duke of Edinburgh) camp with Well. That may be a first!

Hermione Hai



Hermione has been our outstanding international prefect this year and is another one of our passionate and talented learners who is driven to academic success. This shows in her desire to become a clinical psychologist in the future. She has been an academic achiever in various subjects over the years and has achieved academic excellences.

Hermione has been very involved in school and community events. She has performed solo and with a group with her Chinese instrument, the guzheng, and has always awed her audience. Her highlight has been the group performance with Pamela, Evelyn, and Christine. Aside from music, Hermione has played social basketball and volleyball, been on the school council and in the plant club. She has also volunteered at the Farmer's Market and IHC service.

Hermione is an exceptional young lady, incredibly thoughtful and caring of others. She has offered many ideas for the internationals not only just our school but Dunedin-wide as an international prefect.

Well Chomchoei



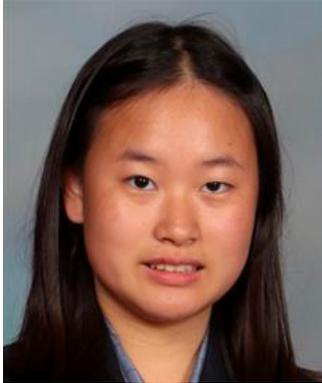
WELL!! We could use her name as an exclamation of what she has done during her time with us. She has certainly taken the opportunities for personal growth, extending her comfort zone, building resilience and confidence, as well as self-managing. She does not hesitate to take on challenges as last year she joined the 10-day sailing of Spirit of Adventure, and this had an amazing experience on the 21-day Outward Bound programme for young leaders. Her highlight of her school time has been the year 10 camp.

Well is a very determined student who has shown real commitment to her learning. She has been an enthusiastic and motivated student in Textiles. This year she completed a 1950's style school uniform using red cabbage as a dye. She then taught herself to crochet the collar and hem lace. This garment won the 150th Jubilee Competition. Also, she created a future school uniform for the HETTANZ Fashion awards where she won the Senior Creative section with her interpretation of a school uniform for 2050! Not only extremely hard-working with her hands, her written documentation is always incredibly detailed and well researched. Well has been an inspiration to other students and is determined and motivated to achieve her best in all she completes.

Along with all those things, Well is also extremely mindful of other people and always offering to help. Her school and community involvement have also been high. She has been a part of: basketball, tennis, squash, sailing, volleyball, fencing, Duke of Edinburgh, librarian, plant club, surfing, farmers market, face painter at the museum. This year she also participated in "Shave for a Cure", just before she spent the July holidays in Marlborough for Outward Bound!

Future studies include Otago Polytech for half a year next year, and then university in the Netherlands.

Lindsay Hu



Lindsay is our international student who has been here the longest. She started half-way through year 9, and I remember when she first arrived. It is just so wonderful how well she integrated herself into the school, became an integral part of our department, and the amazing and talented young person she is.

Lindsay is cheerful, determined, diligent, and enjoys an academic challenge. She cultivates effective habits to ensure that her work is crafted to a strong standard. She has delivered Honours level work in Speech and Drama. Her ability to discuss work extemporaneously in exam situations demonstrates the level of English she has developed throughout her time at Otago Girls'. And in the ESOL stream of Speech NZ, she gained a Distinction grade in the Advanced Level. Lindsay has also been an exemplary French student and gained a High Distinction in Australian Languages Competition for Level 3 French.

Lindsay has been an Academic Achiever, and received Academic Excellence & Scholar Blues. She has entered academic competitions throughout the years with: Junior Mathematics Competition Top 200, ICAS Credit for Science and Maths, Chinese Garden Student Essay Competition Fourth Place, and The Dawn Ibbotson Essay Competition Commended.

Her economics teacher, Ms Brown wrote the following about Lindsay: Fengling is an extremely polite and respectful young woman with a good-natured personality. She is friendly, considerate and kind. Fengling always proves to be co-operative, reliable and honest. Most importantly, Fengling has integrity. She has achieved at Excellence level while facing many challenges, including being far away from her hometown, family and friends, working from home/online during lockdowns here in New Zealand and I just admire and respect her for that. Fengling is an awesome young woman who has made the most of her opportunities over the past few years and I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Lindsay has been a very, very busy student. For school, she has done the following: Volleyball, Basketball, Fencing, Tennis, Badminton, Skiing & Snowboarding, Cultural Coordinator, Student Council, Wellbeing Team, International Leadership Team, Peer Support, Peer Tutor, Librarian, Duke of Edinburgh, Speech & Drama, Guitar, Plant Club.

In the community, she has done Golf, Taekwondo, 40 Hour Famine, Volunteered at Toitu Museum and the Farmer's Market.

Her highlights have been the basketball team and the school ski trip. A fun fact is that she has been lucky to celebrate her birthdays at cool events such as market day, Quarantine Island, and the Mid-Winter Carnival.

Lindsay's future looks to be as engaging as her time at high school. She would like to study a combination of statistics, economics, and psychology. Would like to explore the possibilities of the world and at the same time obtain a deeper understanding of herself.

Speech by International Prefect: Hermione Hai

Good afternoon everyone. It is my pleasure to give a speech here.

2021 has been a difficult year for all of us. There were so many disruptions because of the lockdown and the Delta virus. However, what I wanna say is that our memories of New Zealand should never be just lockdowns, Covid cases and NCEA examinations. Of course, everyone has their unique experiences. Today I want to share my experience with you, and I hope this could remind you about whatever is special and meaningful to you guys.

First of all, let us start with some unpleasant things. My first day of school was 23rd of July 2018. I went to the bathroom during the school tour and got lost. I walked around the school to find the others because I was too shy to ask an English speaking person. I was lucky that I found my way back without saying any English. Unlike a lot of you, my mum was living with me during my first year in New Zealand. We lived in the town for the first couple of months so I used to walk to school everyday. Until sometime later we moved to Mornington and I had to catch the bus. I still remember the first time I took the bus to get back home after school; I didn't know that I needed to wave to the bus to make it stop. So I stared at the bus until it passed away. I called my mum politely asking her if she could please pick me up. And she said: 'Hermione, you either stay there until you figure out how to take the bus or you can walk home yourself.' It was tough and I was heartbroken. And I cried. Unpleasant things just never stop. During the first half year, my legs got infected and they were swollen with many bloody blisters. I literally imagined everyone in my class stared at my strange legs even if they didn't and it just ruined my confidence entirely. Even now, three years later, the scars it left haven't completely gone. But I am fine with them now and I wear shorts and skirts without shame.

I wasn't able to make independent decisions and I didn't know who I was because in my first 14 years of life I just listened to whatever my teachers and family told me to do. Then I came to an environment where we have to make many, many decisions by ourselves. It was such a huge change that it seemed I started to partly decide my life and future. For quite a long time, I was afraid of people saying 'it's up to you', because I didn't really have independent thoughts and I wasn't able to decide. It was difficult at the beginning; however, after a while I kinda realised that if I don't go out of my comfort zone, I would never grow up. So I started to get involved in as many things as I could, such as the school council, social volleyball, badminton, and basketball team. I volunteered in many things and found the joy of helping people. I just realised how brave it is to make all these steps when I write this speech. And what I wanna say is that we've all made many steps in different ways. We are all brave, brave people.

It has been truly a long time. I have grown up from a little girl who cries because she didn't catch the bus, to a prideful young lady who could travel alone to Queenstown for her snowboarding training last winter. New Zealand has changed from a place which I wanted to escape, to a place I'd like to call home. Today we are here to celebrate how many diversities we brought to the school and how Otago Girls' witnessed our growing up. No matter what kinds of hardship and pleasures we've had, I wish we could be grateful to appreciate how those experiences brought us to who we are today. I also wish that we could all love ourselves no matter what.



Finally, I want to share this quote with you, which I got from Well on my birthday card. I hope this does good in your future. So there you go: Work like you don't need the money; Dance like no one's watching; And love like you've never been hurt.

At the very end, I'd like to give a huge thank you to Mrs Boomer and Mrs Stephenson. Thank you so very much for helping us and supporting us throughout these many years.

Thank you for listening.

Leavers: Former Refugees

Zeinab Azimi



Zeinab is the student who has been here the shortest amount of time and has probably had the hardest journey with the age she has come to New Zealand. It has been great to see her flourish and gain an NCEA qualification in a short amount of time.

Here are some comments from her teachers: Zeinab has a great understanding of theoretical English in Level 2 Science, understanding and interpreting text with confidence.

As the year has progressed Zeinab has begun to contribute to discussions in English, showing a positive attitude towards improving her oral English. Zeinab worked incredibly hard this year to gain Numeracy within a General Maths class. Her positive attitude and focus allowed her to succeed quickly through the tasks.

Racha Aljomaa



Racha is a very, very friendly, polite, motivated and determined student. She has taken on many new challenges in subjects such as textiles, economics, and outdoor education. Her outdoor ed teacher said Racha was always positive and enthusiastic toward her learning, consistently striving to do her best, and made the most of the opportunities in the outdoors. She made the teacher smile when she made contact with her after the year finished to get resources so she could take her family on some of the same walks.

Racha also played a bit of football for school and has helped with many new students. Her highlight at school has been outdoor education and in the future she would like to be a business woman.

Aya Elyassin



Aya shows her determined attitude in all her subjects, and has some advice when needed. Aya has volunteered with the Red Cross and gained a first aid certificate. She has gained certificates in Speech New Zealand ESOL and art. The highlights of her time at OGHS are the sports days, library days, and school outings (camps). She enjoys reading and often asks if she can read longer after we finish our silent reading. Her ideal future would involve law.

Rama Alsaayde



Rama has gained several pinkies for doing the right thing at school, and got many signatures on her Shelly cards. She has enjoyed meeting lots of nice teachers and having lovely friends at school. Next year, she would like to study health science first year at Otago Polytech. Her teachers have all said she is a respectful and mature student who is engaged in her learning. Rama and her family sold food to the staff members to raise money to attend a conference. It was very well received by the staff as they loved eating freshly made falafel and chicken shawarma.

Wafaa Haroura



Wafaa's science teacher said this about her: Wafaa has been diligent and conscientious in the classroom all year. She has completed each internal assessment to the best of her ability. During research tasks she reads high level English in scientific articles, interpreting them and referencing them in her scientific essays. During practical investigations, Wafaa independently plans, collects information, processes, concludes, discusses and evaluates her experiments. She has a mature, responsible approach to all aspects of class and is a pleasure to teach.

Wafaa has spoken to different groups about her experiences and has enlightened many students and teachers. She has spoken to the global leadership small project club, social studies class, and the BOT. She has a natural ability to speak in public and one I would like to see her continue to build in the future.

As an avid reader and person who likes to increase her vocabulary, she would often come to school with a list of words she wanted to know the meaning of and we would have great discussions.

Nagham Ghazzoul



Nagham is extremely organised and determined in her approach to her learning. She ensures that she is prepared and has always made a good effort in the assigned tasks. She is becoming more independent in her studies which will help her greatly at university.

She was a quiet yet supportive peer support leader, a role where she has taken a huge step outside her comfort zone. She has used the opportunity to develop some leadership skills and has been a delightful role model.

As well as peer support, Nagham has been a school librarian, done street collections for charities, and volunteered for the Red Cross. Her school highlights have been being a year 13 student, and the Celebration services over the years.

Her future would also like to be in the field of medicine and we are sure she will take advantage of what is on offer to her at university and beyond.

Nada Haroura



Nada is very good at giving back to others as she has volunteered and collected money for various organisations. She has also spoken to groups at school about her journey from Syria to her life at OGHS.

When she was in year 10, she didn't want to go away on camp so she did the camp based at school. That week of activities was one of her highlights. Another highlight was doing the Speech New Zealand oral ESOL exam which made her more comfortable to talk in front of a group of people. This is a very valuable skill that she will use a lot in the future.

Her fun fact is that she doesn't run in the school cross country but one year I apparently made her run with me and she was in the top 40. She felt very proud of herself.

Her teachers have commented on her being able to see advice when she is not sure. This is another valuable skill to have.

Future dreams involve working somewhere in the field of medicine. We know there are numerous avenues in medicine so we will see where she ends up.



Speech by Former Refugee: Nagham Ghazzoul

Hello everyone, kia ora, As-Salaam Alaikum. Welcome to our farewell & celebration of OGHS former refugees. My name is Nagham. It is my privilege today to share with you about my journey in OGHS for the past five years. On the 27th of January 2017, I started year 9 at OGHS. I was both nervous and excited to start my adventure at OGHS world. Meeting new people was a very stressful thing for me because of my basic level of English that I had but through the help of my classmates and my teachers, I am proudly standing in front of you speaking my whole speech in English.

My best memories in the past five years were year 9 camp which was the first camp I went to in my life, singing the songs in celebration without knowing the lyrics, getting to meet lovely teachers and students, and sitting in the year 13 common room with 100 students at the same time.

From my experience, I would like to advise you to take every opportunity given to you even if you don't like to do it. Just try and I am sure you will enjoy it. Don't give up and try your best.

Now, I would like to speak about my leaving emotions. I think every year 13 student is feeling the same as me, excited for my next journey but worried about the new chapter of my life, apply to start university but at the same time sad to leave the school that I love.

Despite all the ups and downs we have gone through this year and mainly Covid 19, we still managed to graduate from OGHS, so I would like to congratulate all of the year 13 students.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for supporting me and encouraging me to be the best. I would like to thank the teachers that helped me a lot and made me improve and be a successful person. Special thanks to my classmates and friends for the best memories that I had.



Article by Allison Han in Year 9

Ah, what a year 2021 has been. From the chaotic year nine camp, to lockdown in term three, and finally the year nine activity week. This year came and went like a roller coaster.

I signed up for librarian at the start of the year. It was a wonderful experience which allowed me to do what I love: being surrounded by books and people who enjoy reading. During my time this year as a librarian, I have created a strong bond with both our librarian, Mrs Smallfield and other fellow student Librarians. Sadly, Mrs Smallfield is leaving our school this year along with our principal and some other teachers. I sincerely wish the best for the future for them!



Shortly after the librarian sign-up, debating season started and of course, as the curious person I am, I signed up for that ASAP. Debating helped me with so many things. Such as getting better at public speaking, making friends and also improving my ability to think quickly in situations.

Alongside debating, I started on one of the clubs I absolutely love: Theatresports. During the time I spent there, I learnt a bunch of games that supported me with my learning in drama.

At the end of term three, I took up rowing, just to test my limits and see how much I can push through. As I heard that it's a tough sport. Well, the rumours are true; it's so tough that for many times I just want to quit it. But I'm very glad that I pushed myself to keep on doing it, as it improved my physical strength and endurance by a massive amount. Even though it's tough, it's still enjoyable with my friends' company.



2021 flew by and now it's already the end of the year. I can remember the international student leavers' assembly when my seniors' achievements were read out. I felt so empowered and proud of what they've accomplished and they have inspired me to work harder so I can bring pride to my juniors when I'm graduating. Overall, I loved this year at Otago Girls'!

40 Hour Famine: Lindsay Hu

(Written in July/August)

Early last term, I had the great opportunity to attend the World Vision Conference through the Student Council, and it was indeed a truly worthwhile experience for me. From the truly influential guest speakers, we were introduced to many new perspectives. The greatest thing I had taken away from that event is the motivation to become the changes I wanted to see in this world. And that's what I did. I volunteered to take charge of the 40 Hour Famine fundraising in our school.



Famine has been a long existing issue in our world and the majority of us acknowledge this. However, it is devastating that we are unconsciously letting it fade away from

our sights. With family members that have undergone such misery, I felt the urge to spread empathy and reinforce the necessary attention. Not to mention that my 18th birthday overlapped with the 40 Hour Famine weekend, so I thought of this as a meaningful present to myself.

This year, World Vision is focusing on the sub-Saharan African people who are suffering not only from the lack of food resources, but also the Covid-19 pandemic. Me and Maya started to work together and carry out plans. First of all, we gathered those who were interested to provide them with information for fundraising and we conducted a speech to engage the whole school. We then put up posters around, linked the fundraising website in daily notices and school newsletters, and made a donation box for cash. Our initial fundraising idea unfortunately didn't work, which was the school sleepover, due to the time-consuming procedures and the surge of other events going on during the same period. But fortunately, our "dare" proposal, which encouraged donations in order to have one of the teachers doing a selected challenge, helped us surpass the fundraising goal of two thousand dollars, and it would hopefully take place in term three.

As for myself, I obtained support from my family and my host family, along with friends and their families. I also discussed with my host family to help them out with the garden in return for the generous financial support they gave me. There are numerous creative ways to take part in the 40 Hour Famine challenge, but I chose to do it the old-fashioned way - simply not eating for 40 hours. Another decision of mine was to have my birthday dinner as a cheat meal with my friends after watching the Mid-Winter Carnival. Saturday, and then to extend my challenge for another 19 hours due to the inconsistency of my challenge. Though as extensive as it seems, I personally did not find the challenge too harsh and even found my movements more agile afterwards.

In short, we raised \$2582.20 as a school. I am deeply proud of our effort and appreciate the support we gained through the community. If you are reading this, I hope this will not be the end. Raise awareness to your families, don't waste food, ask for takeaways when you can't finish your orders. That would be the greatest respect from us.

2021 OGHS Prize Winners

Year 9

Allison Han	9GR 1 st Aggregate: distinction for Japanese, mathematics and textiles technology, commendation for art, drama, physical education and social studies
Fereshta Moradi	Commendations for English language and physical education
Samaya Ahmadi	Commendation for English language
Mariana Al Helal	Commendations for English language and mathematics
Somayeh Eidizadeh	Commendations for English language and textiles technology
Faeza Khodr	Commendation for English language

Year 10

Hebe Leung	10CN 2 nd Aggregate: distinction for mathematics and science
Mariam Aboud Agha	Commendations for English, mathematics and science
Parisa Moradi	Commendations for English language and mathematics

Year 11

Yamama Al Naes	Commendation for English language
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Year 12

Maram Aboud Agha	Distinction for English literacy
Rachel Lowther	Distinction for biology, commendation for physics;
Kate Lui	Distinction for business studies, commendation for English language
Pamela Peng	Distinction for music

Rama Allo	Commendation for English literacy
Fatemeh Azimi	Commendations for English language and year 11 mathematics
Naya Ghazzoul	Commendations for English literacy and Science
Christine Hu	Commendation for dance
Maria Khan	Commendation for English language
Hiroka Ryu	Commendations for chemistry and mathematics
Rebecca Zhuang	Commendations for English language and mathematics

Year 13

Well Chomchoei	Distinctions for English literacy and textile design, commendation for design and visual communication
Hermione Hai	Distinction for biology, commendation for English, mathematics with calculus, mathematics with statistics and physics
Lindsay Hu	Distinction for economics; commendation for mathematics with statistics
Sol Kwon	The Jacinda Brown memorial prize for Japanese, distinctions for mathematics with calculus, commendations for English and physics
Evelyn Wei	Distinction for hard materials technology, commendation for English
Daibaihe Jiang	Commendation for English language

Special

Well Chomchoei	Douglas memorial prize for excellence in creative design & textiles in the senior school
Pamela Peng	Prize for the most promising pianist

Service

Hermione Hai	Dean's commendation, Principal's award for prefect
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Prestige

Nagham Ghazzoul	Doreen Hayward Prize for Effort and Achievement
Well Chomchoei	Global Leadership Award

Prestige Academic

Lindsay Hu	7th Aggregate: OGHS School Board Highgate Prize for Academic Excellence
Hermione Hai	Proxime Accessit to the Dux, Jan Anderson Cup and OGHS School Board Highgate Scholarship
Sol Kwon	Co-Dux of the School – Dux Association Prize, Ann Campbell Prize and OGHS School Board Highgate Scholarship, Sol Kwon





Term 1 2022 Start Dates

January 24	Office Opens
January 28	Peer Support Training (10:00 - 4:30)
January 31 & February 1	Senior Course Confirmation (1:00 - 4:00)
February 2	Year 9 (9:00)
	Peer Support Leaders (9:00)
	Internationals (11:30)
February 3 & 4	Prefect Training (10:0 - 3:00)
February 6	Full School (8:50)
February 7	Waitangi Day
	Waitangi Day Observed (School Closed)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

