



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

International Department Newsletter Term Four 2022

Our final term of the year was certainly filled with events and it was so wonderful to be able to hold them all in our traditional ways. One of our biggest events is the Celebration Service which was held at Knox Church. This venue provides a special atmosphere and with the enthusiasm and wonderful singing, it produced a memorable evening. The highlight is always the Year 13 medley. Each house chose one of the Celebration Service songs for the house singing competition so we all had a chance to sing again.



We also had a cultural evening sponsored by the Former Refugee Cluster, along with farewells for the international and former refugees, and Cultural Blues evening. A staff - prefect dodgeball match was held in the gym, and the prefects came out as winners. The last day of school for the seniors started with the excitement of the Year 13 prank. This year they were *Rosie's Roadworks*. Much fun was had coming in to the school and navigating the many balloons inside the building.



The juniors had plenty of experiences during this term. Some Year 9s participated in the annual writers' retreat at Warrington where they spent two days by the beach and writing. All of that year level finished with their film festival with films they made during the last part of the term. The Year 10s had geology trips to the university and camp in week seven. There was also a junior sports week amongst all of that.



Prize-giving and the Year 13 formal were big events in the final week of the term. The Year 13 formal was held at the beautiful Larnach Castle. We are extremely proud of students who won prizes for their academic study and contributions to the school. Unfortunately, most of our students had returned home before the prize-giving so had to receive their prizes in absentia. We are extremely proud of the students who were in the top scholars, especially Christine Hu who was Proxime Accessit to the Dux. The list of prize winners is below.

NCEA examinations were held during the scheduled dates and not postponed like the previous two years. They are challenging but provide the students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned.

A major part of our international department is the host families who continue to provide loving and caring environments for our students. Several of these families have hosted the girls over the last two summers as they were unable to return home. This is the first time our students have returned home for our summer holidays. It would be interesting to see how things have changed in their home towns.



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 shown the students and colleagues during their time with us. The leaving members are: Christine Cook, Penny Mackay, and Kirsten Taylor. These teachers are taking one year off and will return in 2024: Alvina Brown, Cat Robson, Kirsten Parkinson, Charlotte Hayward.



International Leavers 2022

<p>Rachel Lowther</p> 	<p>Rachel has developed some very good friendships with other students and we can often see a group of internationals hanging out together. This year, Rachel has been studying very hard in biology, business, chemistry, English, Stats, and physics. Her results to date have been excellent in all subjects along with positive comments from all teachers. We expect Rachel will go on to further study with success, and we wish her all the best.</p>
<p>Christine Hu</p> 	<p>Christine has brought her talent and passion for dance and worked hard to improve it. She has even taught her class a dance. Not only has she had excellent results in dance, all her other subjects have very fine results. She has been studying dance, English literacy, calculus, maths, and physics.</p> <p>This year, Christine has been an academic achiever for English literacy, dance, mathematics and physics in term one; in term 2 academic achiever for dance and calculus. We hope Christine will be dancing for life and sharing this enthusiasm with many. All the best, Christine.</p>
<p>Hiroka Ryu</p> 	<p>Hiroka has been here the longest of our international students as she started in April 2019. This year, Hiroka has been taking biology, chemistry, physics, English, and calculus. She has been an academic achiever for physics and calculus.</p>
<p>Kate Lui</p> 	<p>Kate has had quite a commerce side to her studies as she has accounting (OBHS), business, English, calculus, and stats. She is also an academic achiever for statistics, and been a peer support member. Kate has also volunteered with the Red Cross. Her great results in all her subjects and great work ethic will help her achieve her future goals.</p>

Rebecca Zhuang



Rebecca is the second-longest serving international student as she started in October 2019. She has a wide variety of subjects with photography, English, calculus, media, and physics. She has also been an academic achiever for media studies, and artist of the week for her photography work. I saw her photography portfolio today and it is beautiful. We look forward to seeing what Rebecca will do in the future.

Pamela Peng



Pamela started her full-time study with us at the start of 2020, but she was a short-term student when she was in year 9. I had found a 3B1 notebook with her name on it and threw it out as it had been some time since she was here. Then she enrolled not long after that!

Pamela is our second international student to play the electone. I hadn't heard of this instrument until our previous student told me about it. And then when Pamela said she played the electone, I remembered Misato who was our previous student. This time, I have actually been able to see the instrument myself.

Pamela has been very involved in wider school activities. She was a member of the school tennis team. The other many activities/events/groups she has been a part of are: Jazz Band, School Song Player, Peer Tutor, Librarian, Culture day, Open Night, International Food Festival, International Potluck Party, Cultural Coordinator, Peer Support Leader, School Council Representative, Dunedin Youth Jazz Festival. She has also received a Cultural Blue. Besides all those wonderful achievements, Pamela has also been an academic achiever for English and chemistry. To top it off, she has won a Dean's Award.

Year 12 Outdoor Education: Chimmy Chim

At the start of team 4, we had a 3 day journey in Otago. We were biking, hiking and walking. On the first day, we started biking from school to Bethune's Gully and then walked to the Organ Pipes, biked from the top road to Waitati and stayed there for the first night. The views were so beautiful in Organ Pipes and I really enjoyed biking down the hill. Although we were so tired, we were still looking forward to the second day.



On the second day, we started walking from Waitati to Orokonui Sanctuary. Furthermore, we saw the second tallest tree in the world and birds (including the takahe, kaka, rifleman, fern bird, tomtit, kereru, ruru). After that, we biked down to Mihiwaka Abseil to do rock climbing. We all had so much fun and the views up to the hill are so nice. At the end of the day, we biked to Port Chalmers and took the boat to Quarantine Island.

On the third day, we did some morning community service on Quarantine Island, like planting, cleaning in the garden. It was so interesting and tiring. After finishing those service activities, we took the boat to Portobello. And then biked all the way to school. At that time, the weather was so windy and rainy but all of us successfully went through it. In fact, the distance between Portobello and OGHS is 20km!

In summary, the whole journey distance was about 70 km! Although we were so tired, undoubtedly all of us enjoyed these 3 days. It is because Outdoor Education camp brings with it many opportunities to build relationships. like we had gestures game and spoon games every night to let us know each other more. I went through a lot and gained a lot of experience in these 3 days as I am a new student that has never explored New Zealand before.



After we had successfully finished our journey, we went snorkelling in the ocean on Thursday. It was so lucky to have good weather. Nevertheless, the water was still very cold ! After we changed our wetsuit, gloves and fins , we started to swim and look into the ground. We saw fish, coral and crab. It was such an impressive experience for me.

2022 OGHS Prize Winners

Year 9

Sarah Al Hamwi	Commendation for English Language
Asmahan Al Sary	Commendation for English Language
Batoul Elyaassin	Commendations for Mathematics and Science

Year 10

Alison Han	10CN 1 st Aggregate: Distinction for Japanese, Commendation for Art, English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
Mariana Al Helal	Commendation for English Language
Faeza Khodr	Commendation for English Language

Year 11

Mariam Aboud Agha	Commendation for Enterprise
Fatima Al Hussein	Commendation for English Language
Hebe Leung	Commendation for Science

Year 12

Yamama Al Naes Commendation for English Language

Year 13 Distinctions

Naya Ghazzoul English Language

Christine Hu Dance, English Literacy, and Mathematics with Calculus. Commendation for Mathematics

Pamela Peng Music, Commendation for English

Year 13 Commendations

Fatemeh Azimi English Language

Rachel Lowther Chemistry, English, and Mathematics with Statistics

Hiroka Ryu Chemistry, Mathematics with Calculus, and Physics

Rebecca Zhuang Art Photography and Media Studies

Year 13 Special Prizes

Christine Hu The Otago Girls' High School Cup for Excellence in Dance, and The Rose Gordon Cup for Physics

Pamela Peng Miss J N Hendry's Prize for Music, Dean's Commendation

Scholarships

Pamela Peng University of Otago Vice Chancellor's Scholarship for International Students

Prestige Prizes

Pamela Peng Year 13 Cup for Service (This award includes the Christchurch Ex Girls Association prize)

Rachel Lowther 7th Aggregate

Hiroka Ryu 5th Aggregate

Christine Hu Proxime Accessit to the Dux (this includes the University of Otago OGHS Ex Girls' Jubilee scholarship of \$750)

Term 1 2023 Information

January 23 Office opens

January 31 Course confirmation via appointments

February 1 Year 9s & Peer Support at 9:00

Prefect training 10:00 - 3:00

February 2 All students at 8:50

February 6 Waitangi Day (school closed)

February 17 Sports Day at Caledonian Sports Ground

February 28 - March 3 Year 9 camps

March 9 Student Learning Conferences via appointments

March 10 Year 12 *Loves Me Not* programme

March 20 Otago Anniversary Day (school closed)

March 22 School Cross Country

March 27-31 Summer Sports Week, and Year 12 Borland camp

April 7 Good Friday (school closed) & start of term holidays



***There are numerous other events and activities taking place during the term.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!