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# GDC ALUMNI

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## SUMMER 2021/2022

### The Principal's Desk

**Kia ora tātou**

The second half of this year has been challenging with the prolonged lockdown. However, having gone through the same last year, the students were familiar with online learning. Although the levels of engagement dropped over time, particularly at year 10, and there have been student wellbeing concerns that have been reflected in wider society, overall, the students got through lockdown reasonably well.



Year 12 & 13 returning to school for the three weeks prior to NCEA exams worked well for them. They were able to have conversations with teachers to work out which standards to focus on and it gave time for further assessments if necessary, so that Unexpected Event Grades could be generated. Although it wasn't the intention of NZQA, the UEGs became the minimum guaranteed grade a student would gain in that standard.

Students could then sit exams in those standards that they wanted the grades improved. Our last tracking sheets predicted that over 95% of Year 12 would get NCEA level 2 and 97% of Year 13 attain NCEA level 3. Merit and excellence endorsements are at their usual percentages, so I am delighted with the effort of students and staff. Our students would appear not to have been disadvantaged, which would not be the case across the whole of Auckland.

The unfortunate part of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic has been the missed opportunities for students. I especially feel for the Year 13s. We almost completed the winter sport season, but students were unable to go away to winter tournament in their selected sport. School summer sport has not been able to commence. Hopefully, it can begin again at the start of 2022.

Senior students were able to have the Ball earlier in the year, but we could not have any of the award ceremonies in person. We held prizegiving by Zoom to acknowledge all the top recipients, academically, in sports and the arts as well as scholarship winners, but it wasn't the same as being recognised in a hall full of people. We have some amazing young people who gained over \$200,000 in university scholarships. The Graduation Dinner was another event that couldn't be held, and we couldn't farewell them with a morning tea where we promote joining the Alumni.

Looking forward to next year I am feeling positive. We are fortunate to have such a high calibre of staff and students. Gaps in learning created during lockdown will be caught up. We have a production planned for 2022 -- *Beauty and the Beast* -- and College Sport is being proactive in getting sport up and running again. Coming to the end of the year there is a good feeling at school. Students seem happy being back at school with their friends. I am confident next year will be the same.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Nicole Parish for all that she done on behalf of the college and its Alumni. Nicole is an extremely capable, organised person who also understand the importance of relationship building. Unfortunately, Nicole will be leaving us at the end of March. It is typical of Nicole's commitment to delay her departure until after the planned 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion event. Nicole, thank you for your sterling work. I imagine the last two years must have been incredibly frustrating to see a huge amount of planning thwarted. You are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

To all Alumni have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and I look to seeing many of you at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion.





## EVENTS COMING UP...

- March 19-20, 2022, Glendowie College 60th Anniversary for ALL alumni

## Alumni News

With Auckland moving into "Orange" under the traffic light system on New Year's Day 2022, we are now full steam ahead for the 60th Anniversary event, where numbers will be unrestricted. However, all attendees must be fully vaccinated.

[See more detail and buy tickets here](#)



*Glendowie College*



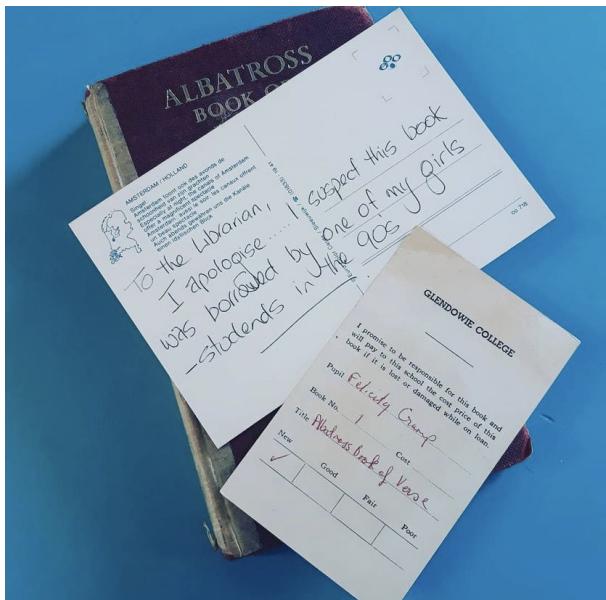
## Our newest Alumni

Unfortunately Covid restrictions meant we were unable to welcome our newest Alumni -- the leaving Year 13s -- with the now traditional leavers' morning tea of scones with jam and cream. But we have had many of them sign up to the mailing list anyway. With online prize givings and a cancelled Graduation Dinner, it was a tough end to this group's time at Glendowie College, but in true GDC style they have stayed classy to the end. We wish them all the very best for their exams and future endeavours and look forward to keeping in touch.



## A guilty blast from the past

The GDC librarian was amused to have this library book returned to the school this term -- it was only about 20 years overdue!!! It came complete with the original bespoke GDC issue card. Our alumni are such an honest bunch!



## Upcoming Position Available: Alumni Advancement Coordinator

It is with sadness we will farewell Nicole Parish from this role in March next year. In 2022 we will be seeking an enthusiastic and organised person to take on the role of Advancement Coordinator (Alumni) for Glendowie College. The position is for 12 hours per week, days and times are flexible. The role requires connecting with our growing Glendowie College Alumni both through the database, and organising events. If you are interested or require more information, please contact Sharon Hewetson, Deputy Principal, on [hsn@gdc.school.nz](mailto:hsn@gdc.school.nz).

**Send your Alumni news items to [alumni@gdc.school.nz](mailto:alumni@gdc.school.nz)**

**Stay in touch...**

**Find us on Facebook - Glendowie College Alumni**

**Link to Facebook group**

**and on Instagram:**

**<https://www.instagram.com/gdcalumni>**

To sign up to the Alumni mailing list and receive newsletters and news of reunions click **HERE**

# Term 4 School Highlights

## LEADERSHIP

The GDC head prefects for 2022 have been announced. Congratulations to the following students, we wish them well in their roles for next year.



**Otis McKenzie**  
*Head Boy*



**Abhi Puthigae**  
*Head Girl*



**Sophie Campbell-Patston**  
*Deputy Head Girl*



**David Yuan**  
*Deputy Head Boy*

## ACCOLADES

Sadly prizegivings were a virtual affair with students, parents and teachers looking on via Zoom. While it was a shame not to have an audience, the prizes awarded were no less deserved. This year's Dux is Josh Lay (also 2021 head boy) and proxime accessit is Holly Harding. Further prize winners can be viewed [here](#). [Arts Awards](#); [Sports Awards](#)



## CULTURAL

This year, sixty-eight secondary school students from across Auckland competed for Chinese proficiency in the annual 'Chinese Bridge' Speech Competition. Seven GDC students competed with great results. Year 12 student Kaythi Finn was awarded the First Prize and the Outstanding Performance Prize, along with Dan Nguyen and Eden Wood who were awarded the Second Prize. Jenna McLaren was awarded the Merit Prize.

Year 10 students: Frank Ison was awarded the Third Prize. Year 9 students: Emily Clark was awarded the Second Prize. Nhu Truong was awarded the Merit Prize.



## ARTS

The success of this year's college musical *Bye Bye Birdie* was underscored by the huge number of nominations it received in the the annual Auckland Live Showdown Nominations -- 11 in total for both cast and crew. At the awards ceremony Nathan Johnson won Best Leading Male for his role as Albert.

Best Costume Design: Zoe Rogers, Ruth Richardson, Clare Jennings

Best Set: Mike Parvano, Paul Lyons, Teri Shin

Best Technical Design: Clare Thomson and Andrew West

Best Male in a Minor Role: Ryan Cleland (Year 12) as Mr. MacAfee

Best Female in a Leading Role: Lucy Hibbert (Year 10) as Mae Peterson

Best Male in a Leading Role: Nathan Johnson (Year 12) as Albert Peterson

Best Female in a Leading Role: Emma Herbert (Year 12) as Rose Alvarez

Best Ensemble: The cast of *Bye Bye Birdie*

Best Direction: Oliver Humphries for the choreography of *Bye Bye Birdie*

Outstanding Musical: The cast and crew of Glendowie College, *Bye Bye Birdie*

Best Production: The cast and crew of Glendowie College, *Bye Bye Birdie*



## SPORTS

Summer sports are underway though just about to take a break for the summer holiday period. The finals of many winter sports were disrupted by lockdown, but the Junior Girls' Football team managed 1st equal in the Greater Auckland Girls' Competition. The week before lockdown, Glendowie College beat the undefeated Avondale College 4-1 in the semi-final, with Ella Halford scoring three and Lucy Hargreaves also scoring. This placed the team in the final against Baradene College who finished top of the pool. Unfortunately, the final was cancelled and as a result GDC awarded 1st equal. Congratulations to all the girls for an exceptional season and to Chelsea Ferguson for her coaching efforts.





## Would you like to help us stay in touch?

We are looking for a key person from each year (1961 - 2020) to be involved with promoting the alumni events. If you are interested, please contact Nicole at [alumni@gdc.school.nz](mailto:alumni@gdc.school.nz)

### Spread the Word

If you are in contact with other ex-students

please forward them this newsletter or the link to join our growing Alumni



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Thank you for being part of the Glendowie College Alumni  
We look forward to staying connected  
[alumni@gdc.school.nz](mailto:alumni@gdc.school.nz)