



# OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS **NEWSLETTER** TERM 1 2024

### Message from our Principal, Mrs Bridget Davidson

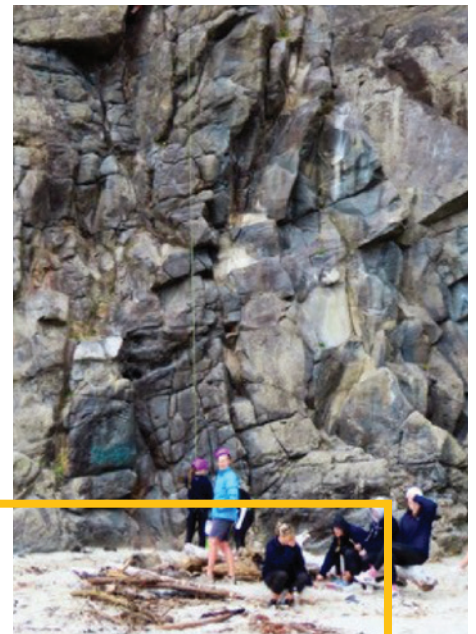
Kia ora koutou, greetings and hello to our friends from all around the world.

We have had a wonderful term and have welcomed several new international students to our school. We are delighted to have many new students enrolling and staying for both short and long periods of time. Our Department of International Students is an important and valued part of our school. International students add a global dimension and enrich the lives of both host school students and visiting school students by the friendships and connections they make here.

Learning has been significant this term and we enjoyed top results in New Zealand over all levels of NCEA and Scholarship when final results were released in February. International students are able to have NCEA recognised internationally for entrance to universities worldwide. Of course, many of our students stay on in Dunedin to study at Otago University and Te Pūkenga – the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology.



Dunedin is famous for its student culture and friendliness and Dunedin is a compact student city which offers unique learning experiences – inside and outside the classroom. Wildlife, outstanding natural scenery, activities, school camps, extra-curricular activities and friendships are international student highlights.





Rata Williams is our Head Student this year and is leading an energetic group of prefects. Our Global Prefect is Lara Alsharif and we have just re-started our Global Leadership Programme which is available to all students. International students will have a head start in this as they are already bi- or multi-lingual in many cases and bring international experience and perspective. Students receive badges for each stage of the programme.

We enjoyed Sports Day, our international student and host family Welcome Barbeque, Year 9 Camp with the Year 9 and 13 'Sisters' programme, Year 12 Borland camp for Biology and Geography, Active April 'Get Active' day, Outdoor Education climbing, biking and hiking camps, production rehearsals, the first Enviroschools workshops of the year, and our whole school Cross-country running event.

Life is busy and rewarding at Otago Girls' High School.

Rose Gilani ([rsg@otagogirls.school.nz](mailto:rsg@otagogirls.school.nz)) is our new Director of International Students and is doing a fabulous job in her new role. Please get in touch to visit or enquire about future enrolments. We love to welcome international students to our school.

We wish all of our international students a happy holiday break and look forward to the second term with all of its learning and activities as we approach the Winter months. Don't forget to follow our Facebook  [otagogirlshighschool](https://www.facebook.com/otagogirlshighschool) and Instagram pages,  [otagogirlshigh](https://www.instagram.com/otagogirlshigh) to see all the latest stories and achievements at our school. Our website continues to be the place to go for all official information.

# Message from our Director of International Students, Mrs Rose Gilani

As we move towards concluding the end of Term One, I reflect upon all that we have been through and how much we have grown. Back in January, I remember driving to the airport and greeting our new international students for the very first time. It was an overwhelming moment and our international students were full of excitement and anticipation.

These lovely young people had come halfway across the world to live with a completely new family with different cultures, a separate set of values, a contrasting taste of food, and even distinct personalities within each family unit. Definitely a huge leap for anyone, let alone a young person.

As we progressed through the term and all of its challenges: changing course schedules, adapting to classes, adjusting to homestays, sustaining injuries, and coping with the passing of a loved one, I realised how strong our international students truly are.

While speaking with our international students who are leaving this term, they told me about the

wonderful memories that they will take back with them such as the International Barbeque and the Sports Day as well as all the opportunities they had had to get to know and form a bond with our domestic students. This is something that they valued considerably.

As our international student numbers will go up halfway through the year, it is my hope that the bonding with our students will strengthen exponentially. I thank everyone including our students, teachers and all of our support staff for making our international students' time here a memorable one. Let's look forward to making next term even better!





## International Team

Mrs Rose Gilani (Director of International Students)

Mrs Bridget Davidson (Principal)

Mrs Katherine Boomer (Dean of International Students)

## NCEA Endorsements from 2023

Level 1: Alison Han (Excellence)

Level 2: Hana Ito (Merit), Hebe Leung (Merit), and Grace Dong (Excellence)

Level 3: Hoi Tung Chim (Excellence), and Lucy Dong (Excellence)



## Term 1 International Students

YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Gale Jan	Saki Hayakawa	Allison Han	Hebe Leung
Sherry Ji	Ada Hu	Mai Someya	Grace Dong
Alisa Song	Chihiro Homma	Lotta Kohler	Hana Ito
Yiling Zhang	Kanae Matsui		Pauline Strauss
	Sumika Moriya		Marlena Pfeiffer
	Nao Suzuki		Jara Rabbe
	Ajisai Tatemoto		



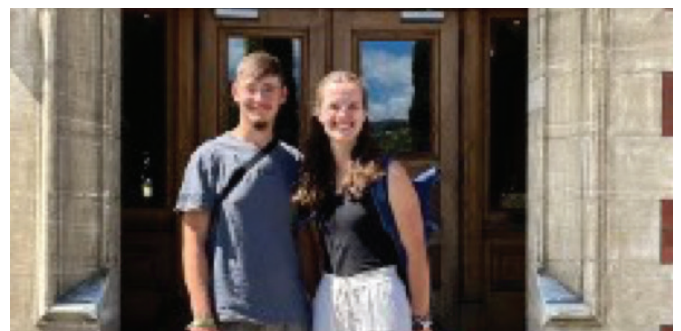
# Reflections of Term 1 from our Dean of International Students, Mrs Katherine Boomer



Adding on some extra details of what our international students have done this term, a number of students went to Quarantine Island for the Community Open Day where they did some manual work cutting grass around planted trees. We shared some lovely food and a walk around the island.

With the other high schools in Dunedin, all international students attended the Mayoral Welcome for Dunedin's international high school students. It was held at the University of Otago and our students met students from other schools and received information from the display booths at the event.

We have welcomed and farewelled students this term, as well as having visits from previous international students. Two students from Germany, Rebekah Wolf (2012), and Svenja Schaedla (2020) returned to show our school to others. This shows how much of an impact living and studying abroad can have on people. For our farewell, we made pikelets and had them along with scones, whipped cream and jam. These Kiwi favourites made a very favourable impression on the students!





Opportunities available to our students are immense and we are so pleased the international students are keen on joining in and challenging themselves to new adventures. Rock climbing, camping, riding bikes, kayaking, and caving are just some of the activities they have done.

Many great friends are created from classmates and with students from around the world. We look forward to welcoming more students throughout the year and seeing the current students welcome and take care of them.

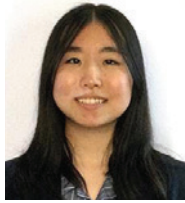


# STUDENT ARTICLES

## My Time in New Zealand by Hana Ito

Hi everyone! This is Hana Ito, one of the Japanese international students.

I have been staying here for one year now and sadly, I have to leave on the 15th of April. It was a great experience to live and study here in Dunedin. I was nervous when I first arrived: first time away from my home country, a different language I use, and worst



of all, I was alone. I worried about making friends, speaking English which is not my first language, and doing schoolwork. I thought I would have a hard time, however, the time went really fast. Every day was fun and every memory is my treasure. I appreciate all the people who have been taking care of me, being friends with me, hanging out with me and talking to me! I will never forget everyone and everything I met here. I hope I will see you guys someday in this life in New Zealand or somewhere in the world!

## Borland Camp by Lotta Kohler

At Otago Girls' High School, year 12 students who take level two biology and geography get to go on a 5 day camp to Borland Lodge. The Borland lodge is located about 30 min from Te Anau. On our way to the lodge, we had a stop in Te Anau to get some lunch and we visited the bird sanctuary and the Department of Conservation to watch a video about the geography of the Fiordland area. After that, we arrived at Borland Lodge and had dinner.

On the second day, we did activities. I was tramping in the morning and in the afternoon, I had a biology lesson where we needed to collect data in the camp to write a report when we got back home.

On the third day, I went caving in the morning. It was really fun, but we were all pretty wet after it because there was quite a lot of water in the cave. In the afternoon, I went rock climbing.



On the fourth day, we all had another biology lesson to finish collecting the data. In the afternoon was kayaking, unfortunately I couldn't go but the others of my group said it was really fun.

On the last day we just had breakfast, packed our stuff away and cleaned our cabins. On the way back we stopped at Gore to get some lunch and arrived at school at 2:30pm.

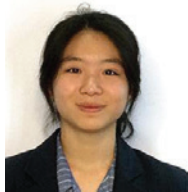
It was a really cool camp, the weather was pretty good, and it was a very beneficial camp.



## OGHS Sports Day 2024 by Ada Hu

On Friday 16th February was our school's annual Sports Day. On this day, we ran, jumped, and played together with all the school students and teachers. I got up at 6:30 am. I wore my Williams house's colour clothes. Williams house's colour is green. Green is one of my favourite colours. I wore a green hat, black jacket, black short pants and big bow tie on my hair. I went to Logan Park early because there are not any early buses from our house to Logan Park, so I went there by my homestay parent's car. The weather was cold in the morning, so my body wasn't warm.

The Sports Day started at 8:30 am. After 1500m running we had a special activity. Everyone joined their house, then walked and shouted their slogan. Williams' slogan is "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch us, we're the Williams clan." This activity was like a procession. It was my favourite part of Sports Day because this was my first time to join



a procession. It was fun and everyone did a thing together. I felt I was in this team. We walked and shouted around the playground, and then kept going shouting our slogan "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch us, we're the Williams clan."

After the procession, we had a lot of sports activities. There were 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m, long-jump, high-jump and shot-put. Everyone could do all the sports when they wanted. But I didn't do any sports. First, my friend didn't want to come with me and I didn't want to join the contest by myself. Second, I felt cold in the morning and I was not warmed up yet. So I just sat in my house chair, then took some photos of the players.

I left early on Sports Day because I had a surfing club after Sports Day, but I forgot to bring my swimsuit so I went back home early to take my swimsuit.

I think next time I need to be brave. I can join the contest by myself. I don't usually go with my friend, that is not good for me.







## National Rugby League Tournament by Mai Someya

On the 30th and 31st of March, we had a rugby league national tournament in Auckland.

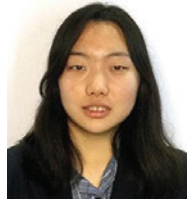
Over the two days, we had a total of five games. Because of the weather and injuries, we were not able to do a lot of practice. We could not win because the North Island team was bigger and stronger than us. However, the scores of some matches were very close and we won the last game of day two.

We lost the games, but we were able to show in the game what we had practiced. This tournament was not just about games, we did a lot of activities as a team. For example, we did easter egg hunting and bowling after the tournament was all over.

This tournament was our last game as an Otago rugby league team and it was a very enjoyable memory and experience.



# My Best Friend in Japan by Sumika Moriya



My best friend's name is Yuka. She is 15 years old. Her birthday is January 3rd.

She lives in Chiba, Japan. She is very kind and funny. She has one brother. He plays soccer. He is so smart. He will be a university student this year.

She and I were in the soft tennis club at junior high school. We practised soft tennis a lot at the park. I was happy that I won the last game.

And we were in the same piano lesson. We have learned piano since I was two years old. After the piano lesson, we always played at the park and ate snacks together.

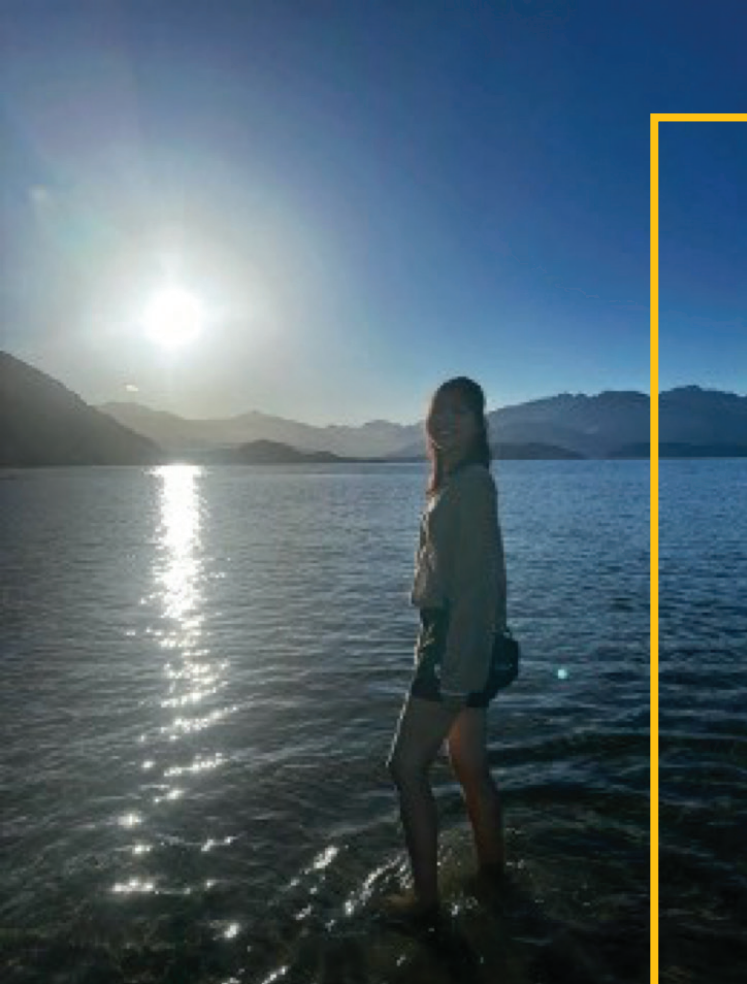
I have been to Tokyo Disneyland with her. We wore the same purple dress because it was Halloween season. I rode Splash Mountain for the first time then. It was so fun. I want to go there again. I'm so excited.

I met her when I was two years old in kindergarten. We have known each other for 13 years. I've had sleepover parties with Yuka many times. We had fun talking and playing until late at night.

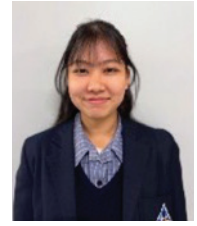
She likes strawberries. I have been strawberry picking with her before. I want to go strawberry picking again.

I communicate with Yuka and call her at least once a week. We talk to each other on LINE and on INSTAGRAM. I like her because she is very kind and helpful, and it's fun to be with her.





## My Easter Weekend by Chihiro Homma



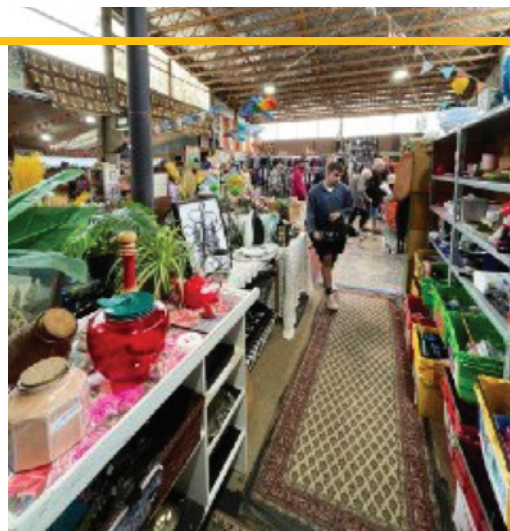
We went to Wanaka this Easter weekend for three days.

On the first day, we left home at 10 o'clock. We took about three hours to go to Wanaka. The road was awful because it was rickety. However, when we arrived at Wanaka, I was surprised because of the very beautiful view. I didn't know where Wanaka was before I came, so I was surprised. We ate nice ice cream and saw a beautiful lake. The day was hot and I wanted to eat a fresh taste so I ordered blueberry ice cream. That was great. The day was so long and we were tired so I went right to bed.

The next day, we went to the skateboard area. My host sister, Marlena, practiced skateboarding there. That was cool. And then we went to a second-hand shop. I had one good thing in there. I was able to find a calculator. Recently, I have been looking for a calculator but the new one is very expensive. I bought it for just \$2. I was so happy. After that, we went to the lake.

When we arrived at the lake, the sun set and it was very beautiful. I put my legs in the water. At night we played some games. On the final day, my friend came to Wanaka too, so we went to town. My friend and I came to New Zealand at the same time. I was so happy to meet her because this was the first time I met her in New Zealand. We had a great time. On my way home, my host's grandson taught me "I spy" in a car so we played "I spy".

I did many things for three days. We spent a great time. I want to go again someday.



# TERM 2 EVENTS\*

<b>Week 1</b>	Year 12 Loves Me Not Programme (3 May)	<b>Week 6</b>	King's Birthday Weekend (3 June) SCHOOL CLOSED
<b>Week 2</b>	Year 11 Geography Trip to Mt Cook (8-10 May)		Parent-Teacher Interviews Only (5 June)
<b>Week 3</b>	Market Day (16 May) Swimming Sports & Pink Shirt Day (17 May)	<b>Week 7</b>	Library Day (14 June)
<b>Week 4</b>	Parent-Teacher Interviews in Person (23 May)	<b>Week 8</b>	OGHS-OBHS Production at OBHS (19-22 June)
<b>Week 5</b>	Otago Tertiary Open Day (27 May) NCEA Dunedin Teacher Only Day (27 May) SCHOOL CLOSED Year 10 Marae Trips (29-30 May)	<b>Week 9</b>	Matariki (28 June) SCHOOL CLOSED
		<b>Week 10</b>	House Haka Competition (3 July) Year 12 Formal (4 July) Last day of the Term (5 July)

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

