



The Cashmere High School Foundation has a vision of enriching the school community by building a connected community, willingly gifting time, talent and funding. We are working to connect current and past students and staff and you can help by passing on our details to old school friends who might not yet be connected (see below). As we build that connected community, we are looking to encourage a culture of willingly gifting time, talent and funding to enrich the school. Enjoy reading about former students who are doing just that.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for 2025 to be announced soon!

60s Decade Reunion - A Night of Memories and Connections



The recent 60s Decade Reunion (1956-1969) was a heart-warming celebration that brought together alumni to reconnect, reminisce, and relive cherished memories. Held in the McCombs Performing Arts Centre, the night was filled with familiar faces, laughter, and stories from the good old days, making it a truly special gathering.

Attendees enjoyed reconnecting with old friends, sharing stories from their school days, and marvelling at how much—and how little—has changed over the years. From catching up with classmates to revisiting favourite school traditions, the atmosphere was full of camaraderie and nostalgia.

A huge thank you to our alumni who travelled near and far to be part of the celebration. The evening was a reminder of the strong bonds that tie us together as a school community.

We look forward to hosting more reunions and welcoming more alumni back home in the years to come!

Special thanks to: CHS Cannonball Collective Jazz Band; Frenesi Quartet (Alumni); The Social Platter Co.; Grava Wines; Vino Fino; Photographer, Mitchell Cozzone (Year 13); and to all our volunteer helpers (students, staff & alumni).



Principal, John Blunt



1958 Head Prefects John Blunt and Miriam Barker (née Tweed)



Lymphads



Catching up over drinks and nibbles



1956-1957



68ers (Class of 1972)

MORE PHOTOS

Alumni Feature in Annual Sports Games

A tradition at Cashmere High School is the annual Staff vs Year 13 Leavers Sports Games, held at the start of Term 4 each year. As always, this year's games were all spirited matches with all teams involved eager to showcase their skills.

An added highlight this year was the participation of several alumni in some of the Staff teams. Their return to the field/court not only boosted the excitement but also brought a wealth of experience and camaraderie, leading the staff to victory across all six codes played.

The alumni who participated this year are as below.



Netball

Penny Mouat (Class of 2015 and current staff member)
Gabby Janssen (Class of 2013 and current staff member)

Hockey

Penny Mouat (Class of 2015 and current staff member)

Basketball

Ethan Rusbatch (Class of 2009)
Gabby Janssen (Class of 2013 and current staff member)

Volleyball

Mark Atkins (Class of 2009 and current staff member)



Football

Luke Blackie (Class of 2017)
Lyle Matthysen (Class of 2017)
Yusi van Dam (Class of 2022)
James Hoole (Class of 2022)
James Brittain (Class of 2022)
Ewan Hyndman (Class of 2023)
Josh Craythorne (Class of 2023)

The Foundation Pupils Award for All-Round Excellence

The Foundation Pupils Association is a past pupils group limited to pupils who attended Cashmere High School in the first 5 years. It is through this group of Foundation Pupils that the Cashmere High School Foundation was established, to ensure Cashmere High School was supported by its past students well into the future. Many years ago the Foundation Past Pupils set up a Year 13 award of \$1000 for the graduating student displaying All Round Excellence in curricular and co-curricular areas.



Tom Freedman

Tom is described as a motivated and diligent student, who works consistently well in all of his subjects. He ranked 1st in Economics, 1st in Japanese, 3rd in History, 5th in Classical Studies and 6th in Chemistry in 2024.

Tom has been recognised for his exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the Sustainability Council throughout 2024. An exceptional organiser, he has also shown a dedication to engaging the council in a wide range of impactful projects within the school and broader community.

Examples of this are his contribution to the submission to Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan, representing the school at the Waitaha Youth Conference in Canterbury, and being selected to participate in the Blake Inspire workshop. His efforts

in expanding the native planting along the school stream, continuing the predator control and trapping on site and promoting litter reduction and organizing the inaugural House Clean-Up Competition have significantly advanced the council's sustainability goals.

With a collaborative approach to leadership, Tom has created a positive and inclusive environment within the council. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him, and we extend our gratitude for his outstanding service and contributions to sustainability efforts at Cashmere High School. Tom has also been a Peer Leader, a Japanese prefect, and has tutored younger students in Japanese. He has taken part in the Health and Wellbeing Council Relay for Life and has attended the School Strike for Climate.

In terms of co-curricular activities, Tom is an open water swimmer, coming 2nd in the South Island Championships for 2000m in the Male 16-19 year category.

Congratulations to Tom Freedman, a very worthy winner of the Foundation Pupils All Round Excellence Prize for 2024.

Alumni in the Spotlight

***Alumni in the Spotlight** is a special feature that highlights the achievements and stories of our remarkable alumni. It serves as a way to reconnect with former students, celebrate their successes, and showcase the diverse paths they've taken since leaving school. Through interviews, profiles, and updates, this segment offers inspiration to current students, shows the ongoing impact of our school community, and fosters a sense of pride and connection within our alumni network.*

By shining a light on the accomplishments of our graduates, we hope to keep their stories alive and maintain a strong bond between alumni and the school.

Our "Alumnus in the Spotlight" this month is **Ashleigh Ward** who was Guest Speaker at Cashmere High School's recent annual Achievers' Evening (Sports and Arts prizegiving). Ashleigh's words were an inspiration to all who had the privilege of attending this event.

Ashleigh Ward - Class of 2012



Tell us about what you're currently doing? Where are you on your career journey? When you left school, was this the path you expected to be on?

If you ask my PE teachers what I would end up doing they all would have said a PE teacher and that is exactly what I am now doing. I took a roundabout way to get there which included a stint in the USA on a soccer scholarship, studying sports science here in Christchurch and moving to the UK to teach and play soccer. I have now returned home and am teaching PE and Health in a local high school.

Is there such a thing as a typical workday for you? What does it look like?

Typical work day looks like getting to school early, making sure all equipment is ready for the day, having my morning cup of tea, teaching a variety of practical and theory lessons throughout the day, then either coaching or managing co-curricular sports teams after school.

What have been some of the highlights of your career to date, and some of the main challenges?

Highlights include helping students find their passion for being physically active. Some of the challenges I have faced are balancing my own sporting commitments with teaching commitments and finding a way to make PE and Health engaging for all...

[READ MORE](#)

Alumni News



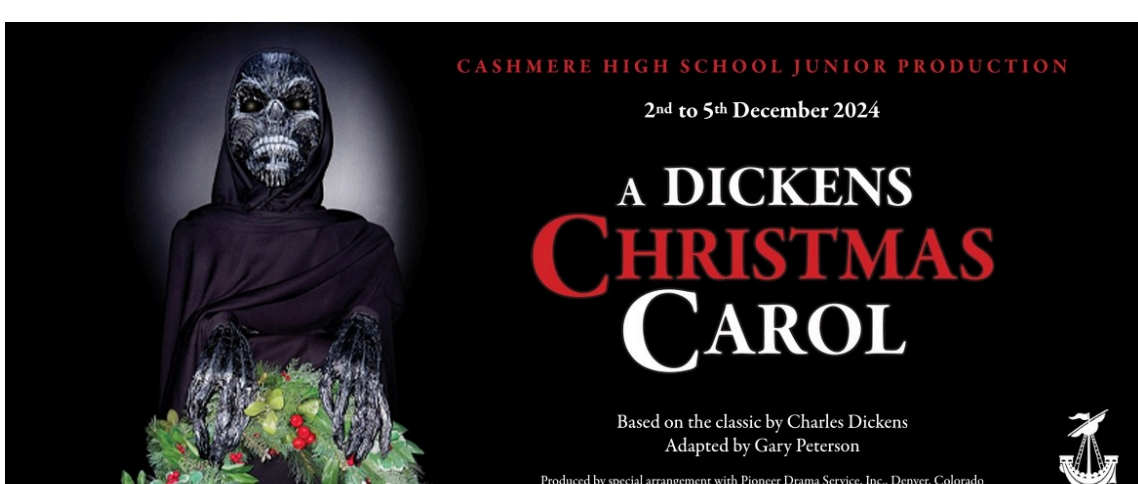
Congratulations to **Willow Cook** (Class of 2023) who was recently awarded an Outstanding Scholarship in Painting. Her impressive painting portfolio has been touring the country as part of the annual *Top Art Exhibition*.

Congratulations to **Joseph Davidson-Labout** (Class of 2022), who is the editor of a new University of Canterbury student magazine, The Canterbury Memo - a magazine of progressive and environmental writing that shines a light on injustices and inequalities in Aotearoa and the world.

We're always keen to hear what our alumni have been up to. If you or your former schoolmates have recently achieved success in the sporting, arts, business or academic fields please let us know so that we can share these successes with the alumni community.

Events on the School Calendar

Come along to the Cashmere High School Junior Production of 'A Christmas Carol' running from 2nd-5th December in the McCombs Performing Arts Centre. Start your run into Christmas right with this Dicken's classic. All proceeds from this show will go to the Hoon Hay Foodbank Drive. Tickets available through [Eventfinda](#).



From The Archives



Science Class 1960

Do we have your correct details on file?

Last year we updated our database software but are aware that the contact details we hold for some of our members are now out of date. If you think this may apply to you please either click on the following link to update them or email alumni@cashmere.school.nz with the changes.

[Cashmere High School Foundation website](#)

Building a community of Past Pupils - can you help with contacts?

We're keen to gather contact details for past pupils and staff members of Cashmere High School. If you are in contact with other past pupils or staff members, please direct them to the [Cashmere High School Foundation website](#), our [Facebook](#) page, our [Instagram account](#), or forward them this email so they can become a member and get involved. Our database is growing but we are still missing a huge number of past pupils and former staff members.

