



Wentworth's educational philosophy focusses on a "holistic" framework. Sports, the creative and fine arts combined with a belief in the importance of education "outdoors" all play a significant part in life at Wentworth and the education we offer.

However, the overarching strength of a quality education system is the strength of its academic programme. Schools are institutions where students learn knowledge and have the opportunity to develop the skills to analyse, synthesize information and then confidently articulate their findings and opinions.

The main challenges of a standards based assessment system such as NCEA, as Warwick Ellery (Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Canterbury) highlighted in a NZ Herald article, is that it is an "outdated model of outcome driven form of accountability," whereas, those assessment qualifications that are norm-based, competitive examination systems (such as CIE) continue to produce excellent results for students and prepares them well for further tertiary study. Professor Ellery qualifies these statements by examining the international PISA (Programme of International Students Assessment) results. PISA tests students from 70 countries in Maths, Science and Reading and Critical Thinking. In the year 2000, New Zealand was near the top in all disciplines but since then our ranking has plummeted. One of the main issues is that from 2003, the NCEA programme fragmented each subject into modules or small units of work from which students pick topics to study. Too often, as teenagers will do, they avoid the hard and challenging topics and select the easier internally assessed ones. The level of knowledge and thinking, along with how students are challenged, has significantly fallen away.



A system where everyone is a winner is mis-leading and gives students an unfair expectation that they are ready and capable of University study, or to an employer that this person has the skills and knowledge that is required for employment.

An argument that is sometimes proffered by non-Cambridge schools is that CIE is a qualification for "bright" students. This is a fallacy! At Wentworth, students of all academic ability levels work their way through the various Cambridge programmes. It requires our students to learn and think, meet deadlines and demonstrate commitment. These are skills required for all future study and careers, indeed, for a rewarding life. Overall in New Zealand, the pass rate for Year 13 students gaining entry into university languishes at only 58%. However, at Wentworth College our pass rate regularly features in the mid to high 90% range, placing us as one of the top academic schools in New Zealand. Interestingly, a parent whose son began university this year recently wrote "The Cambridge Physics, Maths and Computer

Science seems to have given our son a great start to uni. He is doing really well in tests etc. I think most of the subject matter he has come across before, and is now building on it." A Wentworth education is challenging and appropriate for students of all academic abilities. It is holistic by nature. At Wentworth we take the best from traditional educational ideas that have been shown to work, and combine these with progressive thinking to develop our educational philosophy that prepares our students for life after school.



Primary school sustainable lunch wraps that were made in the College technology room.

Bruce Tong
Principal



HEAD PREFECTS

Headboy: Fletcher Corse-Scott, Head Girl: Kelly Main,
Deputy Head Boy: Alexander Gregory and Deputy Head Girl: Shena Donald

SHEILA WINN - AS DRAMA

"I am a man, again" was one of the dramatic lines spoken by Cameron Kilgour in his role as Macbeth in Wentworth College's entry in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition. Held on Saturday, 8th April at Albany Junior High School, each performance was judged by two experienced actors who rewarded Cameron for his acting, giving him a certificate, a book prize, a T-shirt and a voucher for the South Seas Film and Television School vacation course.

The judges also praised the whole performance for the modern interpretation of the Scottish play, as well as the choice of costumes and makeup, which included facial tattoos to identify the opposing members of the two gangs: the Scots and the Norwegians. A large cast of Years 7 and 8 students had practised their stage fighting skills over many hours in the intervals and lunchtimes throughout Term One.

The four AS Drama students ran the rehearsals and spent a lot of time reviewing the success of each scene and making sure the effects were dramatic and emotionally powerful. They also all had speaking parts in the performance so had to focus just as much attention on their own acting skills.

The Drama class is now preparing their 40-minute performance of the play for their Cambridge assessment and are also looking forward to working on the main school production for 2017: Arthur Miller's A View from the Bridge.



CHESS CLUB

The Chess club meet weekly at Thursday lunchtimes, and students of all ages are welcome. Games are arranged informally and players of any ability are welcome to join at any time. While those new to the game learn the rules, occasionally the more experienced will attempt various adaptations. Recently a 4-person game played over 5 chessboards emerged, to much amusement.



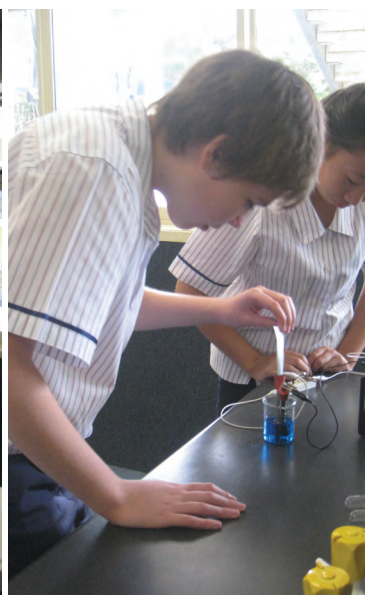
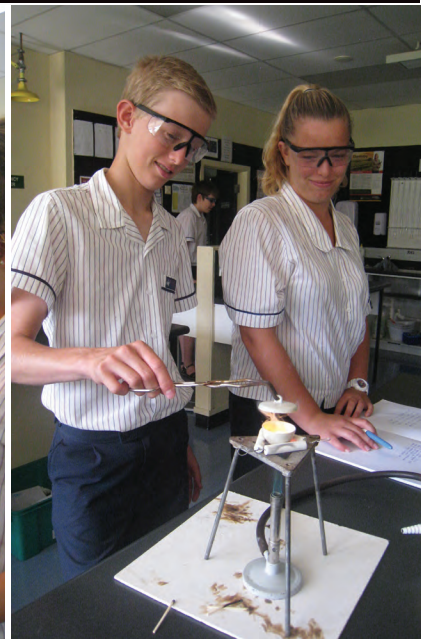
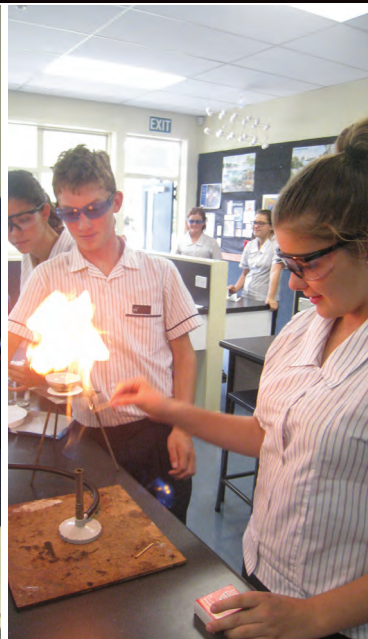
SEWING CLUB

The Years 7, 8 and 9 students have spent time making pot mit, pot holder, scarf or table place mat. Students had to choose their own material and then learn a number of techniques including how to use a sewing machine properly. It has been a steep learning curve for most students, but it has also been fun! Some of the colour combinations are quite stunning.



SCIENCE CLUB

Students from all year levels have been enjoying many wonderful experiments in class and in Science Club this year. One of the most popular was the experiment with the school House team colours.



MARINE STUDIES

Field-work continues to play a key role in the application of concepts of the Scientific Method for our Marine Studies students. We have been fortunate to take advantage of our local beaches (such as Shakespear Regional Park and Tindalls Bay) to make comparisons between Rocky Shore & Sandy Shore ecosystems. Our main event in the 2017 academic year was attending an overnight camp in the Leigh area, allowing our students to get a wide view of the impact of a Marine Protection Area in our local area. The majority of the work was conducted with the University of Auckland at the Marine Discovery Centre at Goat Island. Snorkelling, running transect lines for Cockle surveys, rock-pool species identification, and Fish and Kina dissections, all contributed to developing an overview of the interconnected environment and ecosystems. The A2 students had an early start with a visit to Leigh Fisheries and the local harbour to experience real-time Fisheries Management.



ATHLETICS DAY

Findlay House proved themselves to be the dominant House at this year's Athletics Day, with a victory from start to finish. The green House had large numbers participating at lunchtimes during the week and extended their lead over the course of the Athletics Day. The leading margin decreased somewhat in the relays, where McDonald competitors were successful, but not enough to deny Findlay their first Athletics Shield in four years. Overall, 10 school records were equalled or broken over the week of athletics events – well done to those competitors!



PRIMARY/COLLEGE PEER COACHING:

During the first semester, Year 11 Physical Education students took part in a coaching and leadership unit in conjunction with the Years 5 and 6 Primary students. The College students planned, implemented, and reflected on their coaching practice within small groups.



SWIMMING

Our annual Swimming Sports event was at the Leisure Centre and featured a fun and enthusiastic day for all students (as well as for some game parents who jumped in the pool and showed the staff how to swim a relay race!) Once again this year the battle for the House shield was extremely close, with Findlay and McDonald battling it out over the course of the day and six school records being equalled or broken. Congratulations to McDonald House who pulled away in the relays and earned their name back on the shield. Final House points were as follows:

1. McDonald – 795 points
2. Findlay – 757 points
3. Fleming – 678 points



ROWING 2017

The season saw Wentworth rowers attend a number of regattas around the Auckland and Waikato regions with mixed success at the early regattas. Rowing camp started the push towards the Maadi Cup 3 months in advance and saw crews working hard to regain the fitness and technique they had lost over the Christmas period. After consistent training sessions lasting 2 hours or more for six days a week, the performance of all crews showed noticeable improvement. The novice boys and girls competed in their last regatta of the season at the North Island Rowing Championships with 3 days of compacted, hard racing. This saw the progress of a few of our crews though to a number of C, B and A finals.

Rowing is a time consuming sport and we cannot thank enough the coaches, parents and rowers who put a lot of time in to a sport that only lasts, on average, 7 minutes on a course.



PODIUM FINISH AT THE MAADI CUP!

The excitement levels ran high amongst Wentworth rowers competing at the penultimate event for secondary school student rowers - the national 'Maadi Cup' regatta. The finals were held at the end of March, after a long week of heats, recharge and semi-finals against 2,200 athletes from over 100 participating secondary schools from across New Zealand.

Our rowers did incredibly well, with 4 squads making the 'B' finals and 1 squad - the Girls Lightweight Double Sculls partnership of Rebecca Faletanoai and Shena Donald - making the 'A' finals. The girls started the race in great form and held on to take 3rd place - a huge achievement! This is the first podium finish achieved by Wentworth students at a Maadi Cup and it was hard to tell who was the most excited - the successful pair, the other squad members, the coaches or the parents.

Huge congratulations to all our rowers, and thank you to our coaches, Mr Ansell and Mr Abbott, and parents.



WENTWORTH SAILING ACADEMY

During the first term, Wentworth sailors were out on the water every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Catering for a range of abilities, sailors are split between a 'development squad' and the more experienced 420 competition squad. Sailing in both the 420 dinghies and Topaz yachts, the development squad worked on their seamanship skills and held practice races against our top 420 team.

The 420 team represented Wentworth College at both the Regional and National Team Racing events at Algies Bay. With a lot of commitment and hard training, the team took 1st place in the regional "North of the Bridge" regatta, and finished 4th in the National 420 Team Racing event, competing against 36 schools nationwide.



YEAR 10 IGCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

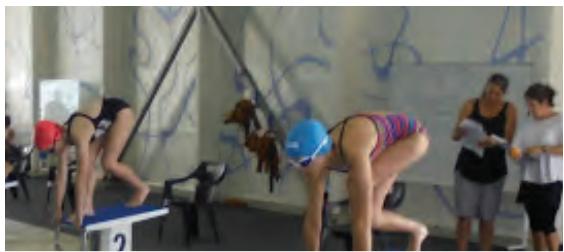
In April, Year 10 IGCSE Physical Education students and their teachers headed into the Waitakere Ranges for 3 days of adventure learning. With the stormy weather causing considerable impact on the original plans, it eventually cleared to allow everyone to spend 2 nights in the bush where they were challenged to apply theory and skills to the outdoors. All students were fantastic and learned much about how to cope in the outdoors with the bare necessities. Students and teachers returned home tired, dirty and sweaty but with lots of positive memories.





AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

During Term 1, we had the pleasure of hosting students from Buntoku High School in Japan, as well as from four schools in Thailand, who were visiting Wentworth for a cultural "kiwi experience". We have hosted Buntoku students and their teachers for the past 5 years and we are told they have all enjoyed a "once in a lifetime" experience in New Zealand, both in the many trips they undertake outside of the classroom, as well as in their interactions with our students. Students were able to enjoy trips to Sheep World, Tiri Tiri Matangi and the Maritime Museum, as well as taking part in a learn to swim programme these were different activities from those they are exposed to in their home countries. Many of our long term international school students also really enjoy the experience of attending school camps and tramps, and tell us that they learn many life skills along the way.



SWIM SPORTS

Early February saw the Years 5 and 6 Wentworth Primary students join the College school swimming competition. The fastest Primary School swimmers were then eligible to compete at the inter-school competition held at the Stanmore Bay Leisure Centre on 30th March.



BEACH PICNIC

The annual Primary School and Years 7 & 8 beach picnic took place in glorious sunshine at Shakespear Park. All the students had a wonderful time and it was great to catch up with the Years 7 and 8 students who had previously graduated and moved on to the College.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Nine courageous and utterly amazing Year 6 students put their hands up to be considered for the role of Primary School Captains. The individual presentations were incredible, with each student having the strength to present themselves to the rest of the school for consideration. The three school captains are Austin McAlpine, Amelie Che and Charlotte Sancto-Jones.



INTER-SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

The interschool chess competition was well supported. Wentworth Primary entered 9 students and was well represented with two students getting a 10th and 13th place. Well done.



SILVERDALE VILLAGE VISIT

As part of our Social Science topic of looking at changes in our community, we visited the historic Silverdale Pioneer Village. The Village patrons put on a fabulous show by dressing in period costume and showing how many of the 'olden day' items were used and how they worked. It was an excellent day out and thoroughly enjoyed by all.





ORIGAMI WITH BUNTOKU SCHOOL

Japanese students from Buntoku High School visited Wentworth Primary and spent time demonstrating how to fold traditional origami figures. The Wentworth students learned how to create folded darts, Japanese cranes, flowers and hearts.



CUP CAKE SALE AND TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

The Student Council voted to raise funds for Starship Hospital as part of their fundraising initiative in Term 1. The Council raised a staggering \$517 from a cup-cake sale and Teddy Bears' Picnic. This was a wonderful effort from the whole school.



YEARS 1-3 MINI CAMP

Not to be outdone by the older students attending the big camp, the Years 1-3 teachers decided they would have a mini camp on the last day of term. Regrettably weather conditions necessitated the need for tents to be erected in classrooms, the freshly cooked pikelets had to be eaten inside and the Easter Egg Hunt was also moved indoors. Despite the weather, we all had fun!



YEARS 4-6 CAMP

The annual Years 4-6 camp was held at YMCA Shakespear Park. Amongst other things, the students took part in pistol shooting, rock climbing, archery and many other activities. Unfortunately the dire weather predictions from Cyclone Cook required the camp to be cut a day shorter than planned. Everyone had an amazing time, but after three nights at camp, they were looking forward to a warm sleep in their own beds.



ANTHONY BAXTER (ALUMNI 2006)

After leaving Wentworth to begin a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2007, Anthony changed direction part way through the course, moving to work for 2 Degrees and international digital marketing firm Reach Local before being inspired to create a more transparent digital marketing company. After six months of cold calling and 80-hour weeks, he was able to stop selling phone plans on the side and go full-time into the Firefly business with his now COO, Marko Kisa.

Anthony started by working out of his Auckland bedroom, making sales pitches and showing media plans to clients on a 10-inch laptop. Now the 26-year-old is at the helm of a near \$2 million turnover digital marketing business, Firefly Search, that is growing at a rate of 200 per cent, year-on-year. It has 12 staff, over \$1.8m in turnover, and is eyeing a launch into Australia and Singapore.

From a very young age, Anthony says he always wanted to be in business. "At primary school I was buying kids' Gameboys and selling them on the Trade and Exchange. I love selling and networking so this was an awesome opportunity to put it all in there and give it a shot. It's paid off."



ANZAC DAY

On Tuesday, 25th April, a good number of Wentworth College and Primary School students turned up to march in the ANZAC Day parade at the Silverdale RSA. A member of the public commented that "Wentworth students always stand out as well presented".

WEET-BIX TRYATHLON

On Sunday, 26th March, 17 Wentworth College students participated in the 25th Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon held at Manly Park. Congratulations to all who swam, cycled and ran their way to the finish line to receive a special medal, and thank you to all the parents who supported their children. Promoting a healthy lifestyle, the Weet-bix Kids TRYathlon is an opportunity for children from 7 to 15 years of age - regardless of ability - to be part of a major event, to complete a challenge and to feel a sense of achievement, all while having fun.

