



January 24, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

## Weekly Notices

# Into the Roaring Twenties!



## Key Dates



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

A warm welcome back to Mount Albert Grammar School for 2020 and special greetings to all who join the MAGS community for the first time.

Our newest Albertians arrive on Tuesday morning with Year 9 students and whanau being officially welcomed into our school by powhiri. We then

welcome students from remaining year levels on Wednesday as we begin the year proper.

As we enter our 99<sup>th</sup> year as a school we are in great heart. Provisional NCEA results put us well above national averages and I congratulate all students who have achieved their academic goals for 2019.

We are delighted with the quality of new staff who are destined to add great value to the school community this year. Many MAGS people have been working throughout January in readiness for the opening of our doors next week. From the property and administration team through to curriculum and pastoral staff – MAGS is open for business! Let the business of growing great young people begin!

As we enter a new era of the roaring twenties, it is an exciting time to be a MAGS student. I look forward to meeting new faces and working with all of our MAGS people in the time ahead.

Enjoy the Anniversary Weekend.

**Patrick Drumm**  
Headmaster

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

### Tuesday, January 28

Year 9s start school

### Wednesday, January 29

Full school starts

### Thursday, February 6

Waitangi Day Holiday – school closed

### Friday, February 7

School closed



## Sport



### Trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

## Focus on staff wellbeing and excellence



Headmaster Patrick Drumm set the tone for the 2020 year by putting staff first at UNITEC yesterday during the Full Staff Administration Day.

As Mr Drumm told the new staff (pictured above) and returning staff, "We need excellent staff to produce excellent students so we need you to look after yourselves mentally, physically and spiritually."

After a powhiri at the campus's Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae, staff took part in a Maori Movement class with Beez Ngarino Te Waati (pictured below) that addressed wellbeing across those three areas.

Staff then took part in some fun 'icebreaker' activities.

This year there will also be a focus on staff building connections and relationships with students, and inspiring them to pursue excellence and achieve their personal best.

This was a point reinforced by Massey High School Principal Glen Denham (pictured above right), who was a special guest yesterday and gave an inspirational speech about what he had learned during his life and teaching career.

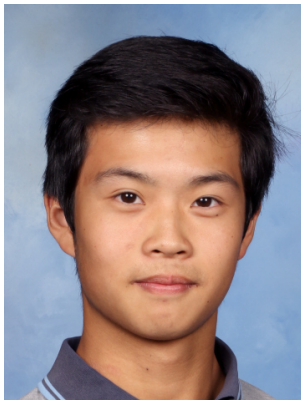
Mr Denham said relationships were vital to learning, and teachers should strive to always do better, be positive, optimistic and loving because they could make a big – and sometimes the most important – difference in a child's life.

He also said they needed to teach children they could learn through failure, rise above it and build resilience in the process.





## Head Prefects for 2020



The school is delighted to announce the Head Prefects and Deputy Head Prefects for 2020.

Eric Shen (at left) is Head Boy and Megan Williams (at right) is Head Girl.

Eric received the Harry Wichman Cup for the best All-Round Boy in Year 12 thanks to his dedication to the wider life of the school. This included



involvement through Sports and Arts, and he has also received a Service Lion for his work within many groups. Eric has already achieved Level 3 with Excellence Endorsement. Megan is an outstanding scholar at Excellence level and was the recipient of the Linda Fraser Cup for Best All-Round Girl in Year 12, 2019. Megan's academic Lions complement her Sports Lions for Lacrosse, Water Polo and Softball. Her Service Lion acknowledges her contribution to our MAGS community as a leader and mentor.

The Deputy Head Girls are Tayla Bamber, Bethany Fletcher and Ronette Va'ai; while the Deputy Head Boys are Adithya Ashok, Finn Helm and Niua Pomare-Khanna.



**Tayla Bamber**



**Bethany Fletcher**



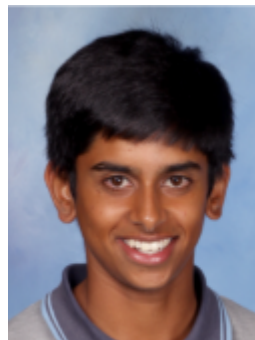
**Ronette Va'ai**

Tayla Bamber is a bi-lingual Excellence student and a senior leader for our Te Puna o Wairaka unit. In 2019 she received first in Year 12 for te reo Māori, plays senior netball and is a member of SADD. She is genuine and caring, embodying the very concept of *manaakitanga* in everything that she does, especially for her tēina – junior members of Puna.

Bethany Fletcher has been successful academically, producing top results at Excellence level.

For her service to the Performing Arts she has been awarded the Junior Arts Award, the Junior Academic Dance Trophy and First in Senior Dance. Bethany was the recipient of the Jo Williams Cup for Diligence in 2018.

Ronette Va'ai is an outstanding bi-lingual Pasifika student, prefect and leader. She has completed NCEA Levels 1 and 2 with Endorsements of Excellence and was also the top Pasifika scholar for Level 1. Ronette has also been our MAGS Komiti Faufautua representative since the Komiti's inception in 2018. As one of many duties, she will lead the Pasifika Council this year.



**Adithya Ashok**



**Finn Helm**



**Niua Pomare-Khanna**

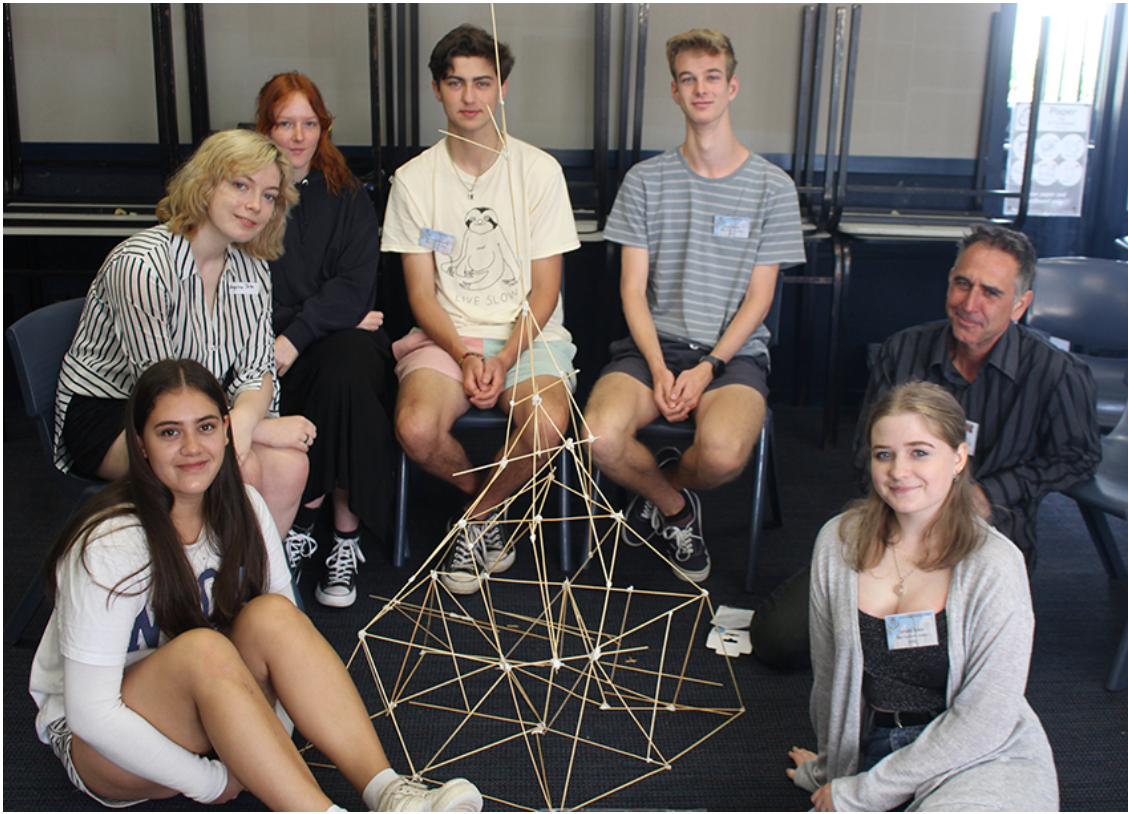
Adithya Ashok is a mature young man who relates well to both staff and students. He is an outstanding sportsman, playing both hockey and cricket and has gained International honours as an U19 NZ Cricket representative. He is just as dedicated to his studies and has fashioned an excellent academic record.

Finn Helm has developed a fantastic academic record achieving both Level 1 and 2 with Excellence Endorsement. He has been a dedicated servant to the school, most notably in the Performing Arts where he is heavily involved in Drama and multiple Music groups.

Niua Pomare-Khanna has continued to grow as a natural leader while developing an excellent academic record. He is a passionate and valued member of Te Puna o Wairaka and an excellent role model for younger students. He has represented the school in Ngā Manu Kōrero speech competitions, Kapa Haka and Rugby.

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## Peer Support ready for Year 9s



This week, about 100 Year 13 Peer Support Leaders completed their training in preparation for the arrival of Year 9s on Tuesday.

Each Year 9 class has three or four Leaders assigned. The Year 13s meet their Year 9 charges on their first day at school to help the classmates get to know each other and show them around the campus. The Peer Support Leaders stay in touch with their class throughout the Year 9s' first year to ensure they feel safe, happy and confident to ask for help if they need it.

Peer Support Leaders help juniors to develop personal skills, including listening and communicating, recognising and combating negative peer pressure, and improving their self-esteem.



## Starting at MAGS

Parents and caregivers should have received the booklet *Starting at MAGS 2020* to help students make a smooth start to the new school year. It contains information about school rules and expectations, contact details, stationery, uniform and key dates. You can download the booklet by clicking [here](#). The Mount Albert Grammar School [website](#) also has comprehensive information about the school and there are also updates about school events on our [Facebook](#) page.



**BYOD for Year 9s and new students**



Year 9 students should not bring their devices until they are scheduled for their BYOD orientation lesson as per the timetable of form classes below. Students will find out their form class on their first day: Tuesday, 28 January. Students in Te Puna o Wairaka will also be told which form class below applies to them.

**Week 1:**

**Wednesday, 29 January:** 9DSA, 9MLR, 9PTI

**Thursday, 30 January:** 9CAL, 9WOL, 9GRW, 9RPY

**Friday, 31 January:** 9GIB, 9HRS, 9RYE, 9WLR, 9TNR

**Week 2:**

**Monday, 3 February:** 9FRS, 9HGH, 9ACK, 9NTL, 9MKN

**Tuesday, 4 February:** 9ADS, 9BRN, 9CLS

**Wednesday, 5 February:** 9CGL, 9WLD, 9HLD, 9SEO

New students in Years 10-13 should bring their device from their first day – Wednesday, 29 January – and come to ICT in L Block at interval or lunchtime or as directed by a teacher to access their logins and other BYOD information.

Students in English Language classes will be informed by their teachers as to when to bring their device.

In 2020, students at all levels will be expected to bring their own device to assist with learning in the classroom.

Full information about this is on our school website [here](#)

If you have any queries, please email Mrs Elise Goddard, the Director of E-Learning, [egoddard@mags.school.nz](mailto:egoddard@mags.school.nz)

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## Software available to students

Students at Mount Albert Grammar School have free access to full versions of Microsoft Office, which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

They may also wish to purchase a \$13 one-year licence for Adobe Creative Cloud, which provides access to over 20 programs including Photoshop, InDesign, Lightroom, Illustrator and Premiere Pro.

Adobe Creative Cloud provides the software used in Art Design, Photography and Media Studies.

Full information about both offers can be found [here](#) on the school website.



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## Traffic issues on Alberton Ave next week

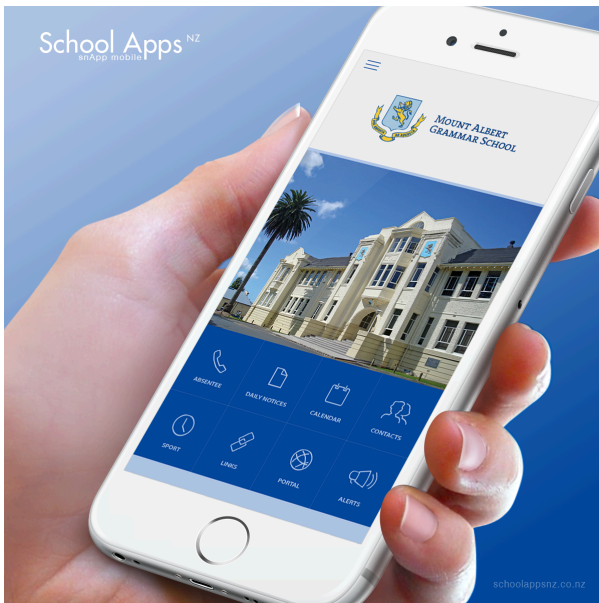
Widening of the footpath on Alberton Ave will make access to the school difficult next week.

The works west of where Alberton Ave and Alexis Ave meet mean there is no parking in this area and a detour will be in place.

Work is due to be completed by the end of next week – Friday, January 31.

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## Download the app to keep up to date



Keep up to date with the MAGS app – free from the App Store or Google Play. Search for “SchoolAppsNZ”, and load the app on to your phone. You can then search for and add as many schools as you want so you can receive alerts from multiple schools.

MAGS parents can access Daily Notices, the Kamar portal, teachers’ contact details, and notify the school about absences.

Parents and students can check the School Calendar and sync events with your own Calendar, and choose groups about which you wish to receive alerts.



## Sports trials and registrations



Students can now sign up for MAGS Athletics and Swimming Sports competitions. The Athletics Day is on Thursday, February 13 and preliminaries start for some events from February 4 so it is really important that people register [here](#) by next week. Athletics Day is compulsory for all sport academy students. Swimming Sports Day is on February 20 and you can [sign up here](#). Over the coming weeks, the Sports Department will be releasing details of other sport trials and registrations. These will appear on the website [here](#) and will also be posted in the Daily Notices, accessed via the website or the MAGS App.

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## French Exchange Trip



During the summer holidays, 24 pupils and three teachers left for five weeks in France. HOD Languages Helen Selaries said, "The kids loved it despite constant problems from the continuing serious strikes which mostly affected Paris and created changes to our programme.

"The strikes meant we walked around Paris and averaged about 10km daily. Luckily our sister school Sainte-Croix de Neuilly is on the Number 1 Line, which is totally automated and therefore continued to run. We were able to get into the city centre and then walked to our destinations. The furthest was from the Place de la Concorde right up to Montmartre, on the only really rainy day.

"After two weeks of school and visits, we all set off on two weeks holiday. The kids were, of course, with their host families and many of them went skiing in Mégève, into Spain, Italy and even to England. The best line was, "Guess what, I went to sleep in the car and woke up in Belgium!" We teachers headed off to visit friends and relatives but not without a huge hassle having to keep changing railway tickets because many trains were cancelled. Then to get to the train stations was a nightmare, with all taxis either stuck in traffic and uber drivers simply refusing to arrive, as getting cars anywhere was so difficult.

"Then our last week loomed and we all met at the school to catch our coach to Tours. We had to cancel all train bookings because of the unreliability of the trains and indeed our first train trip was cancelled so we wouldn't have got out of the city as a big group. The first bus trip was only three hours but both subsequent trips took 10 hours each and that was travelling practically non-stop on the motorway. These trips were exhausting and the final assault on our tired but happy kids was a stomach bug!

"However, the kids were an absolute credit to their parents and school. They all just got on with it and were focussed on getting home and not jeopardising our ability to catch those planes home.

"So to say it was an eventful trip is a slight understatement but the group was amazing in their positive attitude, their managing of tiring walks and bus rides, their forbearance of the unwelcome illness without ever complaining and their total enjoyment of all they did and

saw."

**Year 13 2020:** Max Simes-Foster, Alejandro Hernandez-Garzon, Bailey Bennett, Stella Buckland, Sarah Currie, Aimee Brough, Imogen Rudd, Niamh Brittenden, Hayley Gyde, Jessica Roscherr, Marissa Bhikharidas, Rose Young, Eloise Muir.

**Year 12 2020:** Jack Eggleston, Cole Hickey, Olive Amanono, Maddie Kucija, Lilian McCann, Imogen King, Ella Vuetilovoni, Ruby Wilson, Abby Treloar, Holly Appleby, Sarah Samadian.



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## Kapa Haka group at regionals



Our kapa haka group Te Kapa Haka o Te Puna o Wairaka compete tomorrow at the Aotea Centre in the Tāmaki Makaurau Kapa Haka Regionals.

Under the guidance of Whaea Waimirangi Paul and Matua Peter Walters, the group is using the tough regionals competition as part of their build-up to PolyFest, where they will compete on Saturday, March 21.

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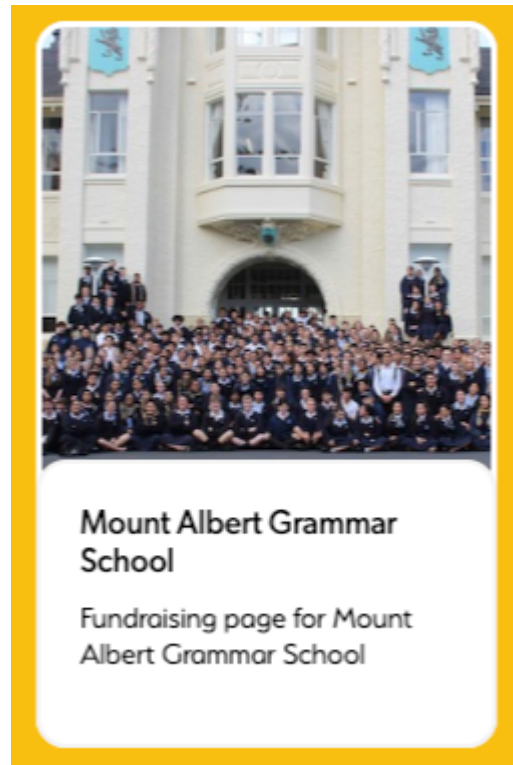
## Support MAGS with Rewardhub

We're excited to share with the MAGS community a way to raise funds for the school that costs you nothing and can even save you money on your purchases.

MAGS has joined with [Rewardhub](#), a website where more than 100 leading brands will reward us with free donations, at no extra cost to you, when you shop online via Rewardhub and are signed up to support us.

It's an easy place to shop and includes special discount codes on big brands in fashion, beauty, entertainment, travel, utilities, money, homeware, food, drink and more.

To learn more and sign up to our page, please click [here](#)



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## Sign up to the Centenary database



THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, LORD JELlicOE FORMALLY OPENING THE MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT AUCKLAND LAST WEEK.

As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, we warmly invite all Albertians to sign up to the database [here](#) to keep up to date with information, communications and events leading up to the Centenary celebration.

Please encourage your friends and peers who were with you at MAGS to attend with you, and to also register at the link.

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## Uniform Shop hours

The Lion's Den Uniform Shop will be open on Auckland Anniversary Day – next Monday, January 27 – from 9am-12pm before school opens for Year 9s on January 28 and the full school on January 29.

For the full Uniform Shop hours, click [here](#)

You can contact the Lion's Den on 021 727 430 or email [lionsdenuniforms@gmail.com](mailto:lionsdenuniforms@gmail.com)

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## Sports update

### Adi Ashok stars for NZ



Adithya Ashok (with 3-38 off his 10 overs) was the pick of New Zealand's bowlers as they defeated Sri Lanka by three wickets in a vital ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup match in South Africa. The MAGS 1st XI captain helped to restrict Sri Lanka to 242 with his legspinners, and NZ won a thriller with a six off the penultimate ball of the match. The Kiwis, who should go through to the next round, face defending champions India in their final pool match tonight and the winner will finish top of Pool A. Adithya featured in a Stuff story recently that you can read [here](#)

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## Keep up with the play

All athletes, parents, managers, coaches, TiCs and sports co-ordinators should download the free College Sport Auckland app and subscribe to the relevant sports.

College Sport uses app notifications to let you know about any last-minute changes such as cancellations, new venues, new draws etc. Plus the app has regular draws, results, venues and other information.

For more info and to download the app, click [here](#)



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