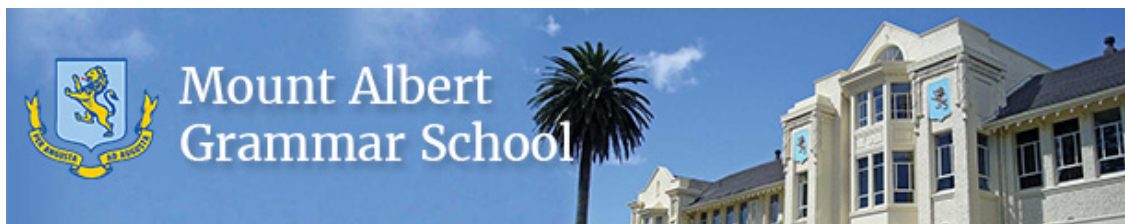




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January 27, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Key Dates

He Tangata



Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

We warmly welcome our MAGS community to the new school year after what was hopefully a restful Christmas break.

Planning is well underway ahead of the return of students across next week with the final touches being made to timetables, systems and structures.

This week, staff new to MAGS were welcomed by mihi whakatau onto our school site. We are delighted with the quality of our new teachers and thank them for choosing to join our school. Our students will benefit greatly from the skills and commitment they will bring to the classroom.

Initial NCEA results indicate another strong academic performance in 2022. This will provide real confidence to those returning to MAGS as they set their goals and targets for 2023.

We are set for a great start to the academic year. Our school buildings and facilities have never been better! And we have the staff to match!

We wait now with great anticipation for the arrival of our MAGS young people and the life they will breathe back into our school.

Enjoy the Anniversary Weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Thursday, February 2

Year 9s start school

Friday, February 3

Full school starts

Monday, February 6

Waitangi Day holiday

Thursday, February 16

Swimming Sports
Championships, Mt Albert
Aquatic Centre

Wednesday, February 23

Athletics Championships,
Lovelock Track

Sport



Our Lion Fund programme aims to provide financial support to allow every MAGS student to access the breadth of opportunities we offer at our school.

Trials and Registrations

Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results

Click [here](#)

Donate to the Lion Fund now



New faces for a new year



New staff, at rear from left: Albert Vaka (Social Science), Ravid Aharon (Science - Physics), Nicholas Shipton (Mathematics), William Sabiston (Commerce), Braden Robins (Technology), Caleb Ashley (Science - Physics). Middle row: Leti Maupese (PE and

Health), Cian Lehane (Mathematics), Thomas Husband (English), Elizabeth Dettling (Science - Chemistry), Caitlin Payne (English Language), Coadette Low (HoD Agriculture), Anna Cooper (Music), Courtney Campbell (Mathematics), Rosie Missen (PE and Health). Front row: Sian Evans (Commerce), Joanna Laxon (English), Hollie White (English), Emma Chaplin (Mathematics), Jessica Channon (Guidance), Laura Whaley (PE and Health), Fiona Somerville (Languages - French).

With students back at school next week, staff have been busy preparing for the school year ahead.

Yesterday, new teachers to MAGS received an official welcome with a whakatau in the W.O.H. Gibbs Room. Following that, they spent the day in orientation sessions so they could hit the ground running next week.

Next Tuesday, new staff will have the chance to introduce themselves to their colleagues as all staff gather at Unitec for a welcome and overview of plans for the year ahead.

Guest speaker at the event will be Professor Russell Bishop, the foundation Professor for Māori Education at the University of Waikato. Professor Bishop is a well-respected author of books on education and a qualified and experienced secondary school teacher.

School starts next week

The school year at MAGS starts next week, with Year 9s beginning on Thursday, February 2.

The rest of our students start school on Friday, February 3.

Parents and caregivers who had enrolled their children last year should have received the Starting at MAGS 2023 booklet via email in December. It can also be downloaded [here](#)

Stationery

Stationery orders can be made via the MAGS website [here](#)

OfficeMax says customers who have not already placed orders will not get their supplies before school starts. However, for the first few days students at MAGS can get by with pen and paper.

Uniform

The Lions' Den uniform shop is open for extended hours next week, including on Auckland Anniversary Day (Monday, January 30). The opening hours can be seen [here](#)



Sports Update

Medals at NZSS Athletics



Jirah Esekia (above left) and Ben Skelton (above right) were the standout performers for MAGS at the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics Nationals, with Jirah claiming gold and silver, and Ben a bronze in field events.

The nationals returned in 2022 after the cancellation in 2021 due to Covid restrictions. They were held in Inglewood from December 9-11, with six students representing MAGS. Five of those students attended the nationals for the first time. Athletes had to battle wet and windy conditions for most of the three days of competition. Jirah (Year 10) had an outstanding meet, winning two medals and breaking a long-standing school record. He came second in the Junior Boys Discus with a throw of 47.12m, breaking the School Intermediate Boys 1.25 kg Discus record that has stood since 1962. Jirah also won the Junior Boys Shot Put with a throw of 14.30m. This was 1.26m further than second place. In the process, he equaled the School Intermediate Boys record set in 2013.

Ben Skelton (Year 13 last year) competed in his last nationals, finishing third in the Senior Boys Discus, equaling his efforts in 2020. Ben threw an impressive 48.38m in his second throw that saw him claim bronze. Ben has contributed hugely to athletics at MAGS, attending the nationals every year (apart from the cancelled 2021 event). He also holds several field event school records across the three age categories over his time at school. Other students who competed were Elliot Kitchener (Year 12). After finishing 3rd in his Senior Boys 100m heat, he qualified for the semi-finals to have the 10th fastest time overall, narrowly missing the final.

Taya Lewis (Year 12) competed in the Senior Girls Javelin and Discus, finishing 10th and

13th respectively. Benjie Fairclough (Year 10) finished 2nd in his Junior Boys 300m Hurdles heat to qualify for the final. In the final, he ran a personal best of 42.19 to finish 5th. Oliver Mayers (Year 9) competed in both the Junior Boys 100m and 400m. He qualified for the 400m semi-finals after a competitive heat, finishing 12th.

Assistant Director of Sport Carlin Crossan said, "A special mention and thanks to all the students' parents who travelled to Inglewood to support. A big thanks goes to Sian John, who at short notice offered to manage the students and take care of logistics at the meet."

Archers on target at nationals



Pictured above, from left: MAGS archers Nick Lees, Orion Elward and Lily Brislen during competition at the nationals.

The first week of January saw the National Archery Championships held in a damp and windy Cambridge.

MAGS archers did exceptionally well during the tournament, which is the peak New Zealand archery event of the year.



Phoebe Newcombe (pictured left) won two golds in the Matchplay teams, and a silver and a bronze from the Target and Matchplay individual competitions in the Under 16 Women's Recurve division. The team gold medals came from a first time pairing of Phoebe with an archer from Timaru.

Orion Elward won silver in the Under 21 Men's Clout competition, bronze in the

Target, and fought hard to make the bronze medal Matchplay final. He also won the Robin Hood trophy for closest arrow to the flag in the Clout event.

Nick Lees won gold in the Under 21 Men's Clout, silver in the Target and gold in the Matchplay. He was awarded the Junior Clout Championship trophy.

Lily Brislen, who led the archery team for MAGS as a Year 13 last year, won gold in the Under 21 Women's Target, bronze in the Open Women's Matchplay, and the Junior Women's Target trophy for the year.

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A Tradition of Excellence

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