Record number of Academic Blues awarded

The annual Academic Blues evening was again held at Toito in March, with more students receiving awards than in previous years. The guest speaker was the Rev Dr Gerard Aynsley who is the Vicar of Education for the Dunedin Diocese and the parish priest for Dunedin South Pastoral Area. 

Fr Gerard is also involved with the Academic Blues program, with courses in Catholic Social Teaching for the Dunedin Campus. He has a B.BTheol (Otago), Dip. Grad., a PGDp Arts and an M. Phil. from the University of Otago, and completed his doctorate at Monash University in Melbourne. But he is better known to Kavanagh students as one of our past Chaplains. And like our Bishop Michael, he began work, after his schooling in Southland, as a fitter and welder. This is his address.

"It is a real pleasure to be here among you tonight. I was the Chaplain at Kavanagh College for nearly 12 years and, while I was not involved in the academic aspect of the college, I came to have a great love for Kavanagh. I am honoured to speak tonight, but I feel my presence is somewhat misplaced at an awards evening where those of you who have achieved academically are being celebrated. I was certainly never in a position to be able to pass judgement on your achievements." 

in the place that the students who are here this evening are. I, myself, struggled through school... although, the word ‘struggle’ may suggest that I was trying hard. As it was, I scraped through and by the end of Sixth Form (Yr 12) the school was glad to see me gone and I was glad to go off and get my hands dirty as an apprentice fitter and welder at Tiwai Aluminium Smelter.

"It was later on, when I was at the Seminary, that, with a bit of encouragement, I developed a love for learning. In particular, I became fascinated with how we think and why we think the way that we do; an interest that lead me to pursue study in philosophy. While I believe that education involves the forming of the whole person, in light of tonight’s awards, I want to take a moment to attempt to articulate what I think a Catholic Education can offer in terms of the forming of the mind. How, in particular, does the forming of our minds assist us in becoming discoverers of meaning; an important quest in a world where meaning can seem so elusive? I believe that we become ‘discoverers of meaning’ inasmuch as we have developed an ability to think critically and to think imaginatively.

"I remember my very first university lecture well. After explaining to us the outline of the year’s course and what would be taught, the lecturer encouraged us to remember at the end of each lecture that everything we had been taught that day was lies. He was being provocative, of course, but he was wanting us to ensure that we didn’t merely take on what he said during the day and then regurgitate it come exam time. Rather, we were to reflect and question and search for better answers. Ideally, this critical thinking overflows into the whole of our lives so that we consider in all sorts of contexts, such as ‘Is this true? Is that right? Is it good?’ It is this sort of questioning and searching that leads us to go deeper and to become increasingly enthralled with the wonder of life.

‘What got me thinking about this topic was a feature article published in ‘North and South’ last year about the Catholic Church in New Zealand. It wasn’t a negative article, but its summation of what it is to be Catholic was so incredibly bland. The author didn’t seem to be capable of seeing beyond what was presented on the surface. It is the imagination, it seems to me, that enables us to go deeper, to see beneath the surface, to recognise that there is something more than what is immediately presented to us. The imagination enables us to see ourselves and those around us beyond surface appearances. The faculty of the imagination is formed in multiple ways. Our faith certainly teaches us and requires of us an imaginative seeing, but so, too, does the English class where the student learns to ponder a poem, or in our learning to look at art, or in the science experiment that explores possibilities. A Catholic College, in helping to form the imagination, assists us in that task of going deeper and so in resisting the banal. It is in this way that we come to discover that there is meaning to who we are and meaning to this world.

‘As a final thought. We are not ‘discoverers of meaning’ in isolation. We do it together. Former students of Kavanagh are that explores possibilities. A Catholic College, in helping to form the imagination, assists us in that task of going deeper and so in resisting the banal. It is in this way that we come to discover that there is meaning to who we are and meaning to this world.

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From our Chaplain to our Bishop

Pope Francis has appointed Fr Michael Dooley as the new Bishop of the Dunedin Diocese. Bishop Michael will be the seventh Bishop of Dunedin and will succeed Bishop Colin Campbell who has served in this role for almost 14 years.

Bishop Michael was born in Invercargill and educated at Heddon Bush Primary School and Central Southland College. After completing an engineering apprenticeship as a fitter and turner, he undertook a Bachelor of Theology degree at the University of Otago, followed by a Master of Theology at Melbourne’s College of Divinity.

Fr Michael Dooley was ordained in 1989. From 1995, he has served as a member of the Priests’ Council as was a parish priest for over ten years in Southland and Otago. Prior to his current role as parish priest for Mosgiel-Green Island, he served as chaplain at Verdon and St Peter’s Colleges, was the Director of the Holy Cross Formation Center at Mosgiel 1998-1999, and the Formator and Spiritual Director of the Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland. He is, of course, a familiar face at Kavanagh College where he was Chaplain 2009-2017. In 2016 Fr Michael was appointed Vicar-General for the Dunedin Diocese.

Bishop Colin remarked: “I have had the pleasure of working with Michael and am delighted with his appointment. His pastoral roles and extensive experience in serving God as a parish priest, formator and spiritual guide have prepared him well for the position.” Bishop Patrick Dunn, the President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ Conference, paid tribute to Fr Michael’s compassionate, untried and selfless service.

Bishop Michael says: “I have been blessed to serve in the ministry as a priest in the Dunedin Diocese, and I now take on this role as bishop very aware of my need for God’s help, and thankful for the support of so many wonderful people over the years and into the future.”

KAV KWIZ by Sam Meikle, Yr 11

1. What is the correct order in the hierarchy of authority in the Catholic Church? Pope, Cardinals, ???, Bishops, Priests, Catholics

2. Pope Benedict XVI was the Pope before Pope Francis. What is his most well known for?

3. How many bishops were there before Bishop Michael Dooley?

4. Pope Francis denied Henry VIII’s request to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon (then sparking Henry to turn the Church of England Anglican)?

5. The Bishop before our current Bishop Michael Dooley was...

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4!
More about ‘Beauty and the Beast’...

“Beauty and the Beast” rehearsals are all in swing. We are very excited to have such a great cast of more than 100 students on board this year. Our Musical is being directed once again by Bert Nisbet, and we are so blessed to have him and his wife Liz working with us. We also have a fabulous team of teachers, parents and ex-students helping out.

Once upon a time in a faraway land, an Enchantress (Elizabeth Audas) turns a cruel unfeeling Prince into a hideous Beast (Andrew Wilson). To break the spell the Beast must learn to love and earn love in return before the last petal falls from an enchanted rose. Ten years later in a small village, a beautiful young woman Belle (Emily Kerr-Bell) years for adventure. Belle’s father Maurice (Mehna Kewene-Masina), gets lost on his way to a fair and seeks shelter in the Beast’s Castle. Enchanted servants Cogsworth (Josh Chishom), Lumière (Nicholas Coles), Babette (Laura Whelan), Mrs Potts (Lexie Tomlinson) and Chip (Jeremy Meikle) try to make Maurice comfortable but he is still under the Beast’s spell, imprisoned. Back in the village Gaston (Kieran Kelly) the village brute proposes to Belle to the dismay of the silly girls (Kate Kelly, Eva Tindall-Maurice, Macieha Fox and Stella Cameron) who try to tegvitegevite the Beast. Belle tells Gaston that she does not love him, though he is not satisfied with her answer. Enraged, Gaston goes to the castle and demands that Belle be given to him. Belle refuses and tells him to leave. Gaston then tries to kill Belle. The servants defend the castle from attack however Gaston finds and stabs the beast but the Beast is stronger. Gaston runs away in shame. Belle arrives and tells the dying Beast that she loves him, this breaks the spell and he transforms into a prince. They live happily ever after.
Pictured above is the triumphant Kavanagh Golf Team (three-quarters of it anyway) from the recent Dunedin Catholic Golf Tournament. The beneficiary this year was the St Francis of Assissi Trust. The team was (from left) Mike Campbell, Gerry O’Farrell, Tracy O’Brien and Nathan O’Brien (absent). Kavanagh bookended the tournament with our development team of Lawrence Bishop, Jack Wolfreys, Tim Armstrong and Tony Pickles (captain) making full use of the course.

Athletics Champions and Runners-up for 2018

Athletics Day was held at the Caledonian Grounds in February on a very rainy day. But as the weather slowly turned sunny, the points gained by Pompallier improved too, making this house the winner.


Records broken, with former records given in brackets.
Faith Elisara broke the Under 15 girls shotput record with 10.91m (10.40m). Peter Sewell broke the 100m Under 15 boys record with a time of 11.09s (11.41s) as well as the Under 15 boys 400m record with a time of 55.67s (58.69). Troy Kubala broke the Under 13 boys shot put record with a throw of 9.53m (9.74m). Sione Tukala broke the Over 16 boys shot put record with a throw of 10.05 (12.42m). Hena Fonohema broke the Over 16 girls shot put record with a throw of 13.28m (9.89m).

Want to ‘asewciate’ with us?

A group of Yr 7-13 students, called ‘aSewciation,’ have been gathering on a Thursday afternoon in T1.1 to sew projects for fun. Some are making items for themselves, some for family members and others just to have fun and learn new skills. Seen on the right are Abi Fern, James Ayers and Alice Wassell.

New NCEA subject leading the way

Agribusiness is one of the most innovative and well over-due decisions that has been made in recent times in the New Zealand curriculum. Teachers Ms Jill Armstrong and Mr Peter Drury are excited to be introducing this subject at Kavanagh College. It enables students to develop skills and knowledge in meaningful contexts that will lead them to well-paid jobs. The course covers plant science, agri-management and finance, digital technologies, agri-innovations, agri-marketing, primary production processes, future proofing, growing value and international trade. Schools have some flexibility and are able to develop a programme that best fits the needs of their students. Chemistry, Biology, Economics and Accountancy can still be included in a course. Agribusiness fits alongside a Science or Business focus so students are able to keep all pathways open. It is an NCEA subject.

Traditionally, high-achieving students have viewed the Health Science, Engineering and Law pathways as their preferred option for tertiary study. Agribusiness, however, is the new kid on the block that enables students to graduate with an excellent academic record and excellent job prospects. New Zealand’s primary sector requires talented, innovative and creative graduates for it to continue to flourish and to lead the world. The Agribusiness class returned to Well’s dairy farm in Outram to observe first-hand the milking process. Despite the weather, the students had an in-depth commentary about the cows, their day to day routine and the technology used.

The class also heard guest speaker Kim Reilly Federated Farmers’ Regional Policy Manager (South Island) who discussed some of the challenges New Zealand farmers face. With increased investment by Silicon Valley in new synthetic food (out of a test tube) means that the “impossible burger” is a reality. This is a growing area of research that will have a big impact on our farming sector. She also spoke about the importance of using niche marketing to promote our unique products, as well as maintaining our water quality. Investing in science and technology by exploring the use of devices such as drones and realising the impact of every action on the environment are crucial. Kim told the class about some of the exciting research and projects that are currently underway in and around Dunedin. Some of the day to day activities Kim undertakes include environmental interests, court mediation processes, media queries, and plans at Council level.

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BORN IN: Dunedin. AGE: still youngish! STAR SIGN: Sagittarius. Apparently things are going to divinely fall into place for me this year... WHAT’S THE BEST THING ABOUT KAVANAGH? The Geography classes, of course. The people and Kavanagh atmosphere is really friendly and on the whole, people genuinely care about others. The focus on social justice and doing things to help others as a way to live, Kavanagh has the full range of opportunities for students to take advantage of. AND THE WORST? I don’t like the lack of grounds combined with the short lunchtime: no time to relax and have a proper break, and no space to spread out or have a good run around or play a game. WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT BEING AT KAVANAGH? Well, I suppose I need to say that I will never live here. I’ve also made some excellent friends. Lots of great memories from the early 2000’s...I remember my very first Phys Ed class really well. It was a Yr 12 class and Mr Harris was in it. WHAT DO YOU LIKE READING? WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK? I can’t name a specific favourite book but I do really enjoy reading when I can find time, which isn’t often enough. I like crime and adventure novels, and stories with a geographical or historical theme to them. Also travel stories and sportsbooks. IF YOU HAD A MASCOT OR SYMBOL WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE? Last year one of my Yr 13 classes gave me a small globe which I’ve now got sitting on my desk. It’s a good symbol of me teaching geography and my interest in the world and travelling. WHAT SPORTS DO YOU PLAY? I used to play heaps of sports when I was younger but as much skiing and mountain biking with the family as possible, as well as football, and the very odd round of golf. I definitely watch a lot more sport than I probably should. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU THIS YEAR? To do a good job and live well. WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN TEN YEARS’ TIME? To be happy and living a good life would be the aim. Maybe I would like to still be teaching or maybe something completely different. I like to keep all options open. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS FOR 2018? Try to live a good, healthy and well-balanced life. Be a glass half full, rather than half empty. Try to do your best in things!