



CRIMSON
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CGA.SCHOOL

THE *NEW* GLOBAL ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

CGA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

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Executive Principal Update



CGA 2022 PRIZE GIVING. A CEREMONY ABOUT THE STUDENTS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Earlier this month we held the 2022 Prize Giving Ceremony for the Aoraki August 2021 and Greenwich September 2021 student intakes.

School Prize Givings are very special occasions when we are able to recognise the great diversity of our students' achievements that have made the year so successful and positive.

It is a genuine honour and privilege for me to participate in the ceremony and to congratulate and celebrate with our students. I am so proud of the efforts of all our prize winners because to achieve recognition from the school requires diligence, commitment, persistence and drive as well as, of course, ability.

The process of striving for excellence, recognising both relative and absolute standards of excellence, and the desire to produce one's best at all times is part of the fabric of our school. The school also has its responsibilities too, and that is to seek to realise the potential of every student by providing challenge and encouraging initiative.

The two intakes of students we acknowledged at Prize Giving started at CGA without knowing too much about us, after all we were only 1.5 years old at the time they all enrolled, and we are quite a bit different from a traditional bricks and mortar school that students would have been used to. But we are still a school, a new style of school, of course, and one we believe that is ideally suited to the current generation of students.

While we may be new, we are also traditional in one important sense in that we aspire to provide an education that gives all students a rounded substantive education based on subject knowledge which will enable students to engage purposefully and intelligently with the world.

To succeed in this aim requires having teachers who are subject specialists and who care passionately about their subject and their students. Our philosophy in appointing teachers has always been that we want the best available, teachers who know what and how to teach, how to foster the magic of learning and how to inspire students and provide an education that transforms the learner. It is great teachers who make a school great.

One of the highlights that make us, as teachers, remember why we went teaching in the first place is the emails and notes we get from students and parents thanking individual teachers for their inspiration.

One such email was received by one of our teachers just prior to the Prize Giving Ceremony, which read:

“Thank you for inspiring me with your passion & dedication as an educator, and for supporting and encouraging me throughout, especially during challenging times!! I am really grateful to be taught by you at CGA. Beyond learning Physics knowledge, this journey with you and CGA has nurtured my attitude and resilience in self-motivated learning, and also allows me to learn and explore my interest in many new and different ways not possible before!”

Prize Givings are all about the students and their achievements. CGA students are the lifeblood of our school. Thankfully, we do have a large group of students who are hungry for knowledge, who work hard and are aspirational. The majority are a pleasure to teach and have contributed in diverse ways to making our school a special place to study and learn, and also socialise.

A number of these students will be leaving us and looking to the future, and no doubt probably feeling a range of emotions – excited, nervous, uncertain, and wondering what the future holds.

One piece of advice from Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, speaking at a university in 2005 is worth noting. He said:

“Your time is limited so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition – they already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”

The Prize Giving Ceremony was very special and an excellent way to complete a tough year of study. My thanks to all our staff involved in the planning of the ceremony, especially Dr Daniel for his work, and thanks to all our students for their contribution to CGA and for choosing to do something different with their life by studying with CGA.



John Morris, ONZM
Executive Principal

Principal's Corner

Mark Phillips
Principal, CGA

As the academic year finishes for our Greenwich Campus and we reach the end of the first two terms of our Aoraki school we need to farewell a founding CGA member.

Barry Gough has taught English Literature at CGA since the very first day and has close to 50 years in the classroom. He acted as our Head of English for a period of time. Barry has previously held positions of responsibilities at a number of schools in New Zealand including a faculty head's position at a large Auckland school.

Barry has had a stellar English teaching career. He is an outstanding academic, generates tremendous passion for literature into his students and is a constant source of advice for our staff. Barry has attempted to retire 3 times previously yet has been drawn back to the buzz and excitement of the classroom. This time, I believe he will actually succeed at retiring. So, on behalf of thousands of students that you have taught, the countless staff you have advised, mentored, provided wise counsel or just amused with your wit and charisma, the school thanks you. We wish you and Susan a long, busy and productive retirement. I understand the Menzshed will be your new local hangout. And cabinet making will occupy a lot of your time. A true legend of the profession. You will be missed.



It is pleasing to be able to offer full time positions to a number of our part time staff. We welcome Jessica Jay to a full time position teaching psychology and Jessica Goddard to a full time position teaching English.

It is exciting to see the introduction of the Parent Portal to support parent engagement and enable smoother communications with the school. The Product and the Technology teams have worked tirelessly and the teaching staff and leadership are excited about the possibilities this tool will provide. The design interface is sensational. Could I urge all parents to log in and use it as a convenient way to monitor information.

PASTORAL CARE

The school continues to increase and prioritise the pastoral care support of students. To maximise the engagement of our students within the school we will be introducing form classes and assemblies for all full time students at the start of the new academic year in September (the Aoraki campus will follow this structure from the start of 2023).

Given the school has grown to a significant size we will move to this model that is common in many schools.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Students will be assigned to a group and the staff member will be a strong source of information for students. We will rename our current times that will reflect more accurately their purpose to Assembly. Both will run once per week. Attendance will be compulsory at both for our full time students.

PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAMINATIONS

As the October A Level exams approach, students who are due to sit exams have been contacted by the examinations team to confirm their examination entries. If you intend to sit an examination in the October session and have not yet been contacted, please confirm this plan with your teacher and send an email to exams@cga.school.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to the following students who received Principal's Commendations during the month of June:

Aditi Kulkarni, Anna Hutchens, Ayaka Anzawa, Chloe Patton, Dylan Gabriel, Eric Zhou, Hakkei Sekine, Huruti Saravanan, Ryan Gabriel, Sofia Glass, Sydney Scott.

Mark Phillips
Principal, CGA





CRIMSON
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DELIVERING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

At CGA our approach to online education is designed to optimise the student learning experience. Students embark on an educational journey that drives them to achieve their full potential.

Deputy Principal's Section

UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS

AORAKI AUG. 2021-22:

July 1: Pre-IG End of Year Reports sent to Parents
July 8: Term 4 and academic year ends on Fri.
(Sun. for Weekend classes)

AORAKI AUG. 2022-23:

Aug 1: Term 1 begins

AORAKI FEB. 2022:

July 8: Term 2 Ends on Friday (Sun. for Weekend classes)
July 11-29: Holidays
Aug 1: Term 3 starts
Aug 22-28: Internal **CGA Examination 3** (ends on 29th for Part Time classes)

AORAKI MAY 2022:

July 8: Term 1 Ends
July 11-29: Holidays
Aug 1: Term 2 Starts

GREENWICH SEP. 2021-22:

July: 8 Term 3 and academic year ends on Fri.
(Sun. for Weekend classes)
July: 11-Sep 1 Summer holidays

GREENWICH SEP. 2022-23:

August: Holiday prior to this intake starting on Sep. 2

GREENWICH JAN. 2022:

July: 8 Term 2 Ends.
July 11-Aug 26: Summer Holidays
Aug: 29 Term 3 begins



GRADES VS MARKS EXPLAINED

Parents have contacted me asking “what was their actual mark?” in the exam.

To help answer this question, please consider the following:

Pearson Edexcel qualifications are awarded using grade scales. A nine-point grading system is used for iGCSE on a 9 – 1 scale, while a letter grading system is used for International A Levels (IAS and IAL) with an A*-U scale. Students sit examinations which are **marked numerically and Pearson then applies grade boundaries to convert these marks into final grades.**

Grade boundaries can vary significantly between subjects but the final grades awarded indicate comparable levels of performance between subjects.

CGA follows the same processes as Pearson Edexcel for internal reporting purposes and therefore examination grades are reported using the Pearson Edexcel grade scales. The 9-1 grade scale is used for Pre-IG and iGCSE subjects and the A* - U scale is used for AS and A2 subjects. Examination grade descriptors provided in the reports (see below) indicate the level at which students performed in each of their subjects.

PRE-IG IG GRADES	GRADE DESCRIPTORS
9	Thorough/comprehensive/excellent knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; highly effective skills and techniques demonstrated.
8 7	Very good/robust/detailed knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; very effective skills and techniques demonstrated.
6	Good knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; effective skills and techniques demonstrated.
5	Reasonable knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; competent skills and techniques demonstrated.
4	Basic knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; basic skills and techniques demonstrated.
3	Limited knowledge understanding and application of curriculum content; limited/simple skills and techniques demonstrated.
2 1	Very little knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; rarely demonstrates skills and techniques.
U	Ungraded: demonstration of knowledge, understanding, skills and techniques fell short of the minimum standard required for the award of a grade.

GRADES VS MARKS EXPLAINED

PRE-IG IG GRADES	GRADE DESCRIPTORS
A*	Thorough/comprehensive/excellent knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; highly effective skills and techniques demonstrated.
A	Very good/robust/detailed knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; very effective skills and techniques demonstrated.
B	Good knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; effective skills and techniques demonstrated.
C	Reasonable knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; competent skills and techniques demonstrated.
D	Basic knowledge, understanding and application of curriculum content; basic skills and techniques demonstrated.
E	Limited knowledge understanding and application of curriculum content; limited/simple skills and techniques demonstrated.
U	Ungraded: demonstration of knowledge, understanding, skills and techniques fell short of the minimum standard required for the award of a grade.



Join other parents and access the CGA Parent Portal Now Live!

We're excited to see that almost half of CGA guardians have signed into the CGA Parent Portal within its first 2 weeks of launching.

Through hours of consultation with our CGA guardians, we are committed to providing CGA families with clear insights into their child's academic progress, class engagement and future course load, so that we can provide innovative features that empower you to maximise their potential.

POPULAR FEATURE HIGHLIGHT: ACADEMIC PROGRESS ON THE PARENT PORTAL

Our newly launched academic progress feature provides guardians with the chance to have meaningful engagement in your child's progress. Features include:

- Engagement scores designed to provide you with an at a glance view:
- Keep a finger on the pulse to confirm your child's class attendance and interaction.
- Feel peace of mind, whatever the day to day is that they are doing well.
- Identify patterns in your child's class experiences that allow you to maximise on opportunities or address potential issues before they arise.
- Maintain quality time with your child with the ability to check in on their progress, without having to raise regular unwanted conversations.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

- Conversation starters for guardians, let our talking points help guide discussions with your student.
- A colour-coded class calendar to highlight attendance and non-attendance
- Upcoming student work

"Spectacular. I've never seen
anything like that"

Jo
Australia

"We always pick up on what they are
doing wrong, and it's harder to find
what they are doing well."

Kelly
New Zealand



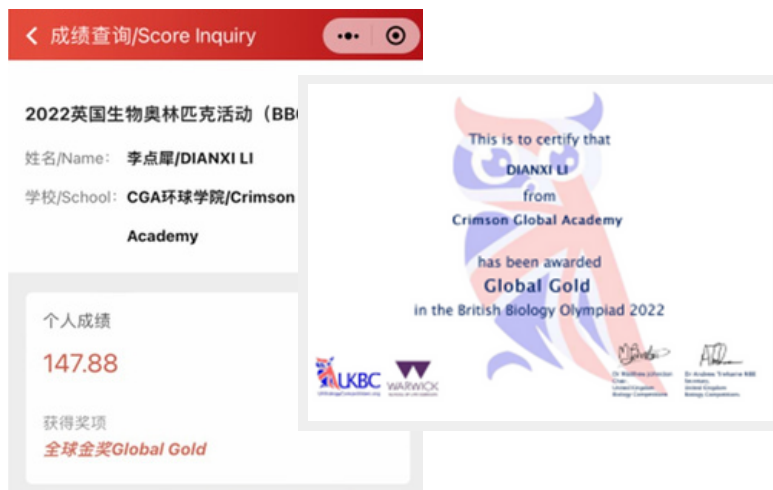
Sarah Yock
CGA Senior Product Manager

Student Spotlight

BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Dianxi 'April' Li entered the British Biology Olympiad as an overseas student and got a gold. A pretty amazing achievement - particularly noting that April is still only 13. Impressive even to the NZIBO staff, she would have made the team if she wasn't too young for them to take to Kazakhstan.

Congratulations April.



TEEN MATTERS

South Africa-based CGA student, Isabella Silva, knows that teens matter. She is on a mission to bring confidence to other young people around the world through motivational talks that have inspired teens across local high schools and beyond. Isabella was recently featured in her local paper for her social impact work, delivering talks that have centred around building one's confidence in order to unlock their potential across all areas of life.

Isabella's instagram account @teen_matters already has over 20,000 subscribers and offers content full of positivity and inspiration for other teenagers.

To learn more about Isabella's impactful initiative, visit: <https://teenmatters.co.za/>

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

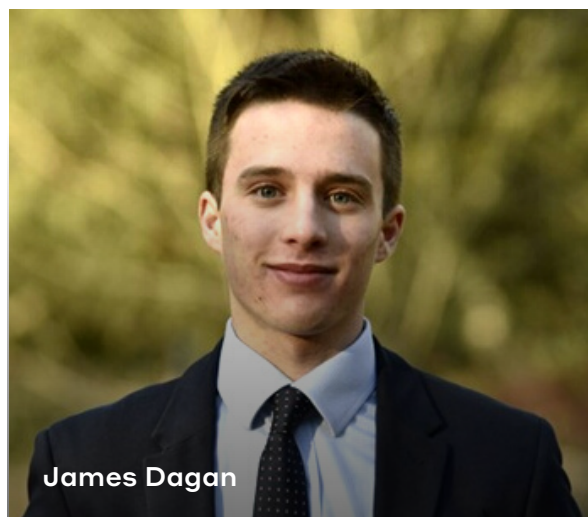
As Mr Morris mentioned, we held our Greenwich and Aoraki 2021/2022 Prize Giving. As usual our amazing team at CGA came together to ensure it was as successful as possible for both students and their families alike. However we did have two amazing student contributions that elevated the event. They were from Eva Poklonskaia and James Dagan.

Eva sang her original song 'The Girl I want to be Someday' which will feature on her new album called Home. Her performance was a "VIP sneak peak" for her CGA family. Thank you Eva, and, after that performance, we have no doubt that your album will be an amazing success.

James gave a first hand account of his time as a student at CGA. James has embraced every opportunity that he has been offered at CGA, both academically and through extracurricular activities. Our school has been a richer place from having James' contribution. It is also important to note that James went on to win the 'Service to School Award' - Congratulations James!!



Eva Poklonskaia



James Dagan



Airi Furukawa

AIRI FURUKAWA

During the early months of 2022 Airi has participated in a project as part of a research group at Ochanomizu University. Airi studied a topic within the wider field of condensed matter physics and material science (spin glass). Airi performed an experiment and analysed the data. The results clearly show memory effects of the spin glass system.

A professor external to her research university recommended Airi to present her findings in an international conference during the Northern Hemisphere this summer. An abstract has been submitted to a conference with Airi as the lead author. It is possible for her to write a conference proceeding.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



MEET UP IN MOSCOW

We are super excited about our first offline meeting for Russian CGA students that we hosted recently. Look how awesome our students look!

We had a pizza hangout format, playing games and we had bowling tournament. The winners got the opportunity to play against the CGA admission team - adults.

We invited all current students based in Moscow and everyone who signed up for early enrollment who starts their classes only in Sept 2022. Both had a great chat with each other learning about how the system works and who is their favourite teacher.

We also invited students who are committed to sign on stage so they can be more inspired to make their decision on joining CGA.



CGA Videos of the Month

WHAT IS CGA?

Watch Andrew walking through Dartmouth (UK) and talk about all that our school has to offer. A short, upbeat summary of endless opportunities at CGA.



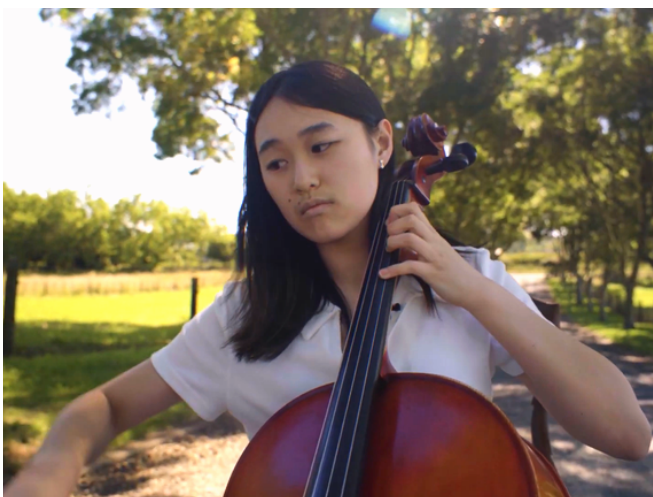
[Watch Dr. Andrew's video](#)

A GEOGRAPHY PRACTICAL LESSON

CGA student, Gemma, went on a trip to the Muriwai coastline to look at coastal processes and to investigate how it was developed through longshore drift and sand movement counting. Gemma is one of our star students and a huge advocate of CGA. This video shows you how CGA created a tailored learning experience for students, encouraging them to explore and carry out research into topics they are passionate about.



[Watch CGA's Geography Lesson](#)



STRIKE A CHORD WITH CGA

CGA's Full-time student Eva is currently playing as Associate Principal Celloist in Auckland Youth Orchestra, a premier regional youth orchestra in New Zealand. At CGA we support ambitious students like Eva while they pursue their passions beyond the classroom. This flexibility allows our students to extend themselves far beyond the standard curriculum and, in turn, present some of the most persuasive university applications in the world.



[Watch Eva's video](#)



Important Notice for Parents and Caregivers

It is important that CGA be able to contact you in case of an emergency, or in order to update you. Sometimes we try to ring parents and find the phone number is no longer current. We also have quite a number of emails that bounce back

Please make sure the school has up to date:

- Phone numbers
- Home addresses
- Email addresses

for both of you.

A simple way to do this is to email the details to our Administration Department:

admin@cga.school



REIMAGINING LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

CRIMSON GLOBAL ACADEMY

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MoE School Number: 921

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