



Learn YOUR WAY

Senior Student Profiles



2018



Rongomai
Vocalist

You can learn about things that interest you at Hagley. The School of Music was a humungous change for me because, for the first time, I could follow my passion and learn about something I really enjoyed. At my old school, I wasn't given this option. I wanted to learn Te Reo as well, and the teachers not only allowed me to do this but supported me too. If I miss a class because I'm at Te Reo, they're always willing to catch me up.

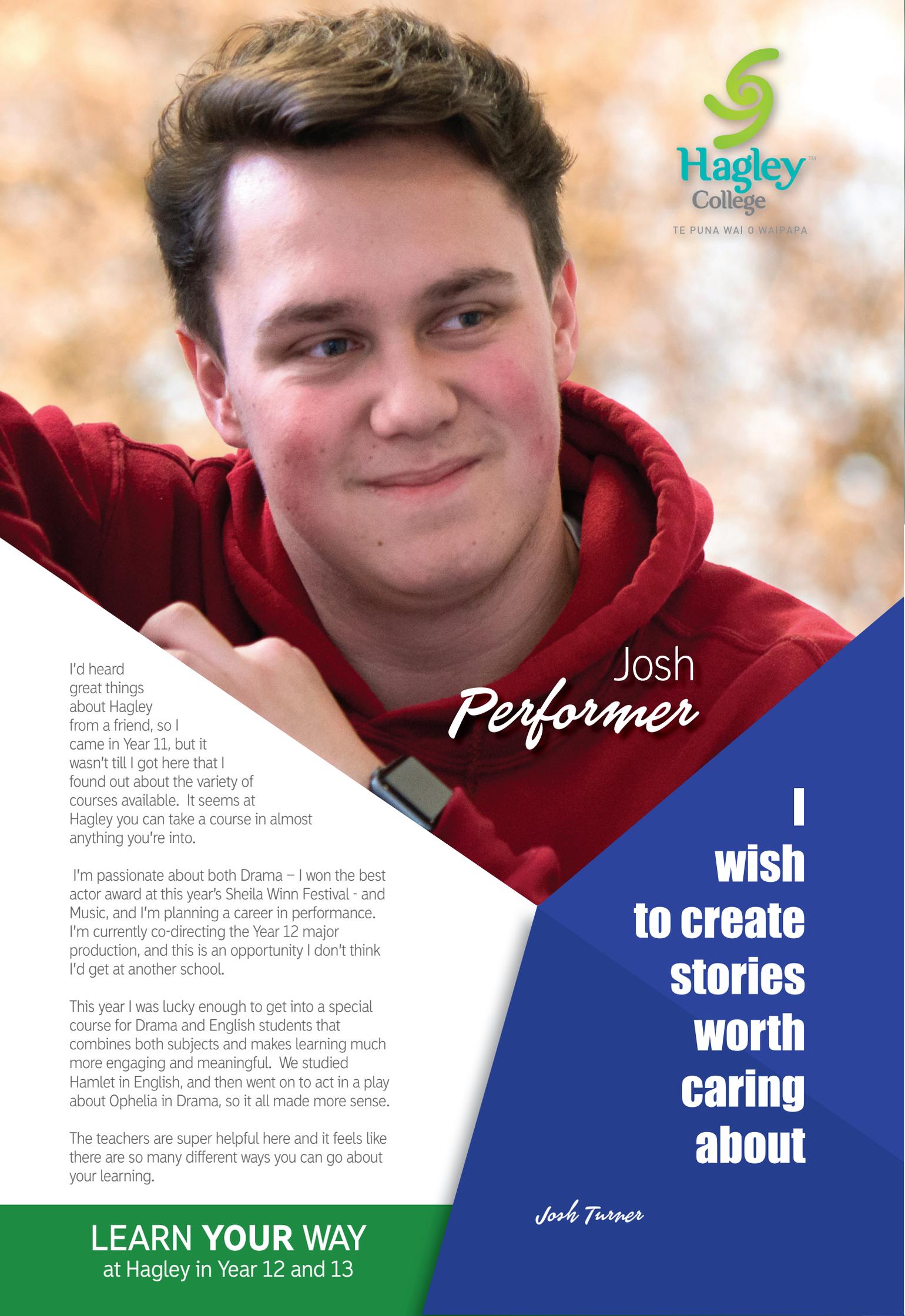
I'm juggling my music and my studies, and the teachers are helping me to manage my learning and offer huge amounts of support. It feels like the teacher's sole purpose here is the student, while in other schools it sometimes seems like you're just a statistic.

I've really developed as a vocalist and have learnt a lot about different musical genres as well. I now have a much wider perspective on music and life. I've just been selected as a finalist for the Tangata Pacifica Beats Competition and next year, I'm off to the UK to continue my studies as a vocalist.

**I can
follow
my passion
and learn
about
something
I enjoy**

Rongomai Callahan

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13



Josh
Performer

I'd heard great things about Hagley from a friend, so I came in Year 11, but it wasn't till I got here that I found out about the variety of courses available. It seems at Hagley you can take a course in almost anything you're into.

I'm passionate about both Drama – I won the best actor award at this year's Sheila Winn Festival - and Music, and I'm planning a career in performance. I'm currently co-directing the Year 12 major production, and this is an opportunity I don't think I'd get at another school.

This year I was lucky enough to get into a special course for Drama and English students that combines both subjects and makes learning much more engaging and meaningful. We studied Hamlet in English, and then went on to act in a play about Ophelia in Drama, so it all made more sense.

The teachers are super helpful here and it feels like there are so many different ways you can go about your learning.

**I
wish
to create
stories
worth
caring
about**

Josh Turner

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13



Lydia
Songwriter

I chose to move to Hagley in Year 12 to focus on my music and still get UE, but also because the timetable is so flexible. Some days I started later and finished early, which meant I could work on my music projects at home.

My goal was to try and complete UE and Year 13 in 6 months, so I could attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston and study song writing, and with the support of my teachers, I did it and start in September. It was challenging. My teachers encouraged me to drive and manage my own learning, but still kept me on task. I had an individual learning programme and was allowed to take work home.

The Hagley School of Music has a strong theory component that has helped me develop as a musician. The main difference is that at Hagley everyone can work on what they are interested in, and if you have a strong passion or ambition, Hagley will cater for it.

**I
completed
UE in six
months:
America
here I
come!**

Lydia Fay

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Grace
Dressage Rider

Dressage rider,
student and perfectionist.

I chose dressage because you have to be precise and organised and that's who I am. It's also why I moved to Hagley. I can be in control of my learning here. When I first came, I sat down with the Deputy Principal and worked out a programme that helped me combine my riding and study. At my old school I had to choose one or the other, and would have had to sacrifice my riding.

I've just spent four weeks in New York grooming for the NZ Dressage representatives for the World Equestrian Games. Without the ability to control my learning at Hagley this experience would not be possible. My goal is to compete Dressage internationally, although it's difficult to set long term goals because horses are unpredictable. My short-term goal is to get UE, and that's a certainty.

**I
like
to be in
control
and at
Hagley,
I can be**

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Grace Thomson

Tilly
Elite Athlete

Hagley helps me manage my training and study commitments. I'm a kayaker. I've been placed in national championships and was selected to represent New Zealand at a international competition in Australia this year, where I gained multiple titles in team and individual events. I was able to select subjects here that were fully internally assessed, so I can work on them in my own time. The timetable allows more freedom too. I can move my training sessions around my free periods, and the double periods are easier to manage and focus in.

I came to Hagley because of the wide subject choice. I knew I wanted a career in either psychology or law and you can study these courses at year 12.

The freedom and flexibility I have at Hagley is helping me reach both my academic and sporting goals and to become the best person I can be. It's supported me in figuring out who I am and what I want. It puts me in the driving seat here.

**I have
the 2028
Olympics in
sight, but first
I'm working on
becoming the
best version of
myself I can be**

Tilly Prichard

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Ryan

Not a Stereotype

I had to repeat Year 12 and came to Hagley because I thought I wouldn't be judged. I knew the school saw students as individuals rather than stereotypes, and when I arrived, no-one cared that I was a second year. I went part time this year because I only needed a certain number of credits and was able to focus on getting those and improving my grades.

If you have a good reason for wanting to do a subject, the teachers will listen, even if you don't have all the pre-requisites. It's the same with changing courses – if you don't need the credits or you're not enjoying a course, they will help you change. The teachers seem to be connected here and communicate with each other, so they know what I need, which makes me feel supported.

I had cancer when I was 12 and have been in remission for almost 4 years, but I still have some side effects like memory loss and the teachers have been very understanding.

**I'm
on an
individual
programme
because
I'm an
individual**

Ryan Holley

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13



Zoey
Firefighter

Hagley works for me because I'm a volunteer firefighter, and there are times when I'm late or miss class for Fire Service duties. The teachers are always understanding and take it into account. At other schools there are no excuses for being late. If you're late, you're late. I often come to school tired too - when the alarm goes off during the night! - and the teachers work with that, and check in on me.

I struggled with Maths at my previous school but got pushed to the side because I wasn't at the same level. Teaching there was more class-based, whereas here it's more individual; the teachers care more about individual achievement, which helps me because I'm not good at asking for help when I get stuck. The teachers seem to genuinely care and notice when you're not thriving and don't give up on you - they dig deeper and push to see where you're really at.

**The
teachers
don't let
me get
behind
when I'm
putting
out fires**

Zoey Harris

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Lucy
*Political
Activist*

I came to Hagley in Year 12 mostly because I got suspended for dyeing my hair blue at my old school, but it's helped me in many other ways. I have a busy life outside of school. I'm on the board for UNITE Union, I volunteer for the Christchurch Central MP, Duncan Webb, and have just come back from the OECD forum in Paris as a youth delegate.

I can study part-time at Hagley to work around my political commitments. The teachers move deadlines and work with me outside of class. As well as this they allow me to incorporate my interests into my tasks, which probably makes their lives difficult, but makes me more engaged and more interested in managing my own learning. Last year I did a night class, so I could work during the day, and when the teacher found out I was walking home from class, she was so concerned she drove me home. The teachers really care here.

**I'm
studying
part-time
so I still
have time
to change
the world**

Lucy Constable

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Chris
Free Thinker

I moved to Hagley because I wanted a less stressful learning environment. In my old school, learning was packaged in a way that didn't suit me. It seemed that everyone had to learn and progress at the same stage, and if you weren't at that stage, it was easy to get left behind.

At Hagley, you can manage your own learning a lot more, and are given time and support to catch up. It's also more individual in how you learn. In my Maths class people are all working at different levels, and if you need extra support, teachers will organise it.

It's easy to talk to teachers here too; there seems to be more mutual respect, and they are open to different learning styles. It helps also that it's a much nicer social environment here. Because there's such a wide range of students, no-one stands out, which means the classes are more comfortable and it's easier to attend and learn.

I'm happy here.

**You
can
learn at
your own
pace -
in your
own way**

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Christopher Egnot

2019





Samantha Cowley

I like working my own way. I can do that here.

At my old school, there were strict schedules we had to stick to and very little flexibility. I think when choice is taken from you, you end up not wanting to engage as much and there's less ownership. There's more autonomy at Hagley – in what we learn, how we learn, even where and when we learn. The teachers understand too that not everyone's the same, that not everyone learns in the same way.

I'm an independent worker; I like working my own way and I can do that here. The work is the same but different. It's not just about how to pass, but also how to learn.

**There's more
autonomy at
Hagley – in
what we learn,
how we learn**

Samantha Cowley

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13



Sol Rogers Mullins

Real learning. Real-world learning.

I feel like the teachers are preparing you for the real world. I'm achieving better here because the focus is on learning not just passing tests. It's about engagement. The teachers really care about their subjects and about you as an individual learner. I love History, English and Music, and Hagley encourages me to keep an open mind about career paths, to embrace a broad range of interests. They don't put pressure on me to choose, more to immerse myself in what I love.

I get treated like an adult at Hagley. It's a trust thing. The teachers trust that I can make my own choices, make my own way, at my own pace.

**I feel like the
teachers are
preparing you
for the real
world**

Sol Rogers Mullins

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at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Liam Day

Leading from behind

I wasn't really into sport before I came here - I liked watching more than playing. Now my dream is to play basketball professionally or become a sports coach, and the PE teachers take my dream seriously. They keep me busy, help me train and have nominated me for leadership seminars, but they also care about my wellbeing and connect with me on a personal level. This makes me feel supported. It makes me feel respected.

They saw I had potential; they saw things in me I didn't know I had. I've learnt from them that leadership isn't about being bossy, it's about standing behind your words.

They saw I had potential; they saw things in me I didn't know I had

Liam Day

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Charlotte Van Der Meys

There's nothing I can't ask my teachers

I used to be shy, but the teachers here are so friendly and easy to talk to. In the first week of school, one of my teachers saw me standing alone and took me and introduced me to other students. The tutor group is good too. It helped me make friends and feel confident.

In the past, I was afraid to ask the teachers questions in case I got it wrong and they judged me, but there's nothing I can't ask my teachers here. There's nothing I can't say. It makes me more motivated to learn. I'm enjoying learning and having fun. I'm happy.

**I'm enjoying
learning and
having fun. I'm
happy.**

Charlotte Van Der Meys

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13



Elvis Nicolls

I'm composing my future

I'm free to do my own thing and experiment with music and different instruments at Hagley. At my last school I wasn't allowed to play piano because I didn't have the theory, but here I'm encouraged to explore and create. When I first arrived, it seemed that everything felt brighter; everyone was happier – the students and teachers.

We're encouraged to perform outside of school. The teachers come and watch and will even use it as an assessment opportunity. They support you emotionally too. I'm more motivated here, because I know I can get where I want to go. The teachers have shown me more choices than I knew existed and this year I'm choosing to record my first EP in the school studio.

**I'm more
motivated here,
because I know
I can get where
I want to go**

Elvis Nicolls

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Israel Soper

My teachers have shown me that failure isn't failure; that making mistakes is how you learn

The culture here is inviting, comfortable and everyone learns better when they're comfortable. They look for and acknowledge the good. Feedback is always constructive and about what you need as an individual learner. They changed me from someone who didn't want to try – to someone who constantly pushes himself. They open the gym for me at 7am so I can train. They respect me as an individual, as a human being.

Now I want to give back. I want to give others what Hagley has given me.

**I want
to pay
it forward**

Israel Soper

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

*Nasteho
Mohamud
Mohamed*

Refugee to rulebreaker

I was born in Somali and spent six years in a refugee camp in Kenya. Now Hagley is home. Next year I'm going to train as a PE teacher – not a typical career choice for a Muslim girl! PE is important. In my culture, girls aren't encouraged to do sport and I want to change that.

My teachers encouraged me all the way. They told me I could do it! They let me take rests during Ramadan, gave me extra help as a second language learner and include my culture and religion in class discussions. They respect my culture and beliefs.

**PE teacher – not
a typical career
choice for a
Muslim girl!**

Nasteho Mohamud Mohamed

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Teshager Berhe

I'm pushed in a good way

I was born and raised in the Sudan. It used to be quiet and peaceful but now there is political unrest. This is my fourth year at Hagley. When I arrived, I had no English – now I'm studying to pass level 2 NCEA. In Africa, the teachers make you study even when you don't want to. Here they push you in a good way. They encourage you. They keep checking in, making sure you don't get behind and that you know what you're doing.

The teachers don't just teach subjects – they help with everything: writing a CV, applying for jobs, and finding the right career. They care about you.

**I'm pushed in a
good way.
They encourage
you. They keep
checking in.**

Teshager Berhe

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13

Charlotte James

Rocket Woman!

I'm determined to be the first kiwi woman in space.

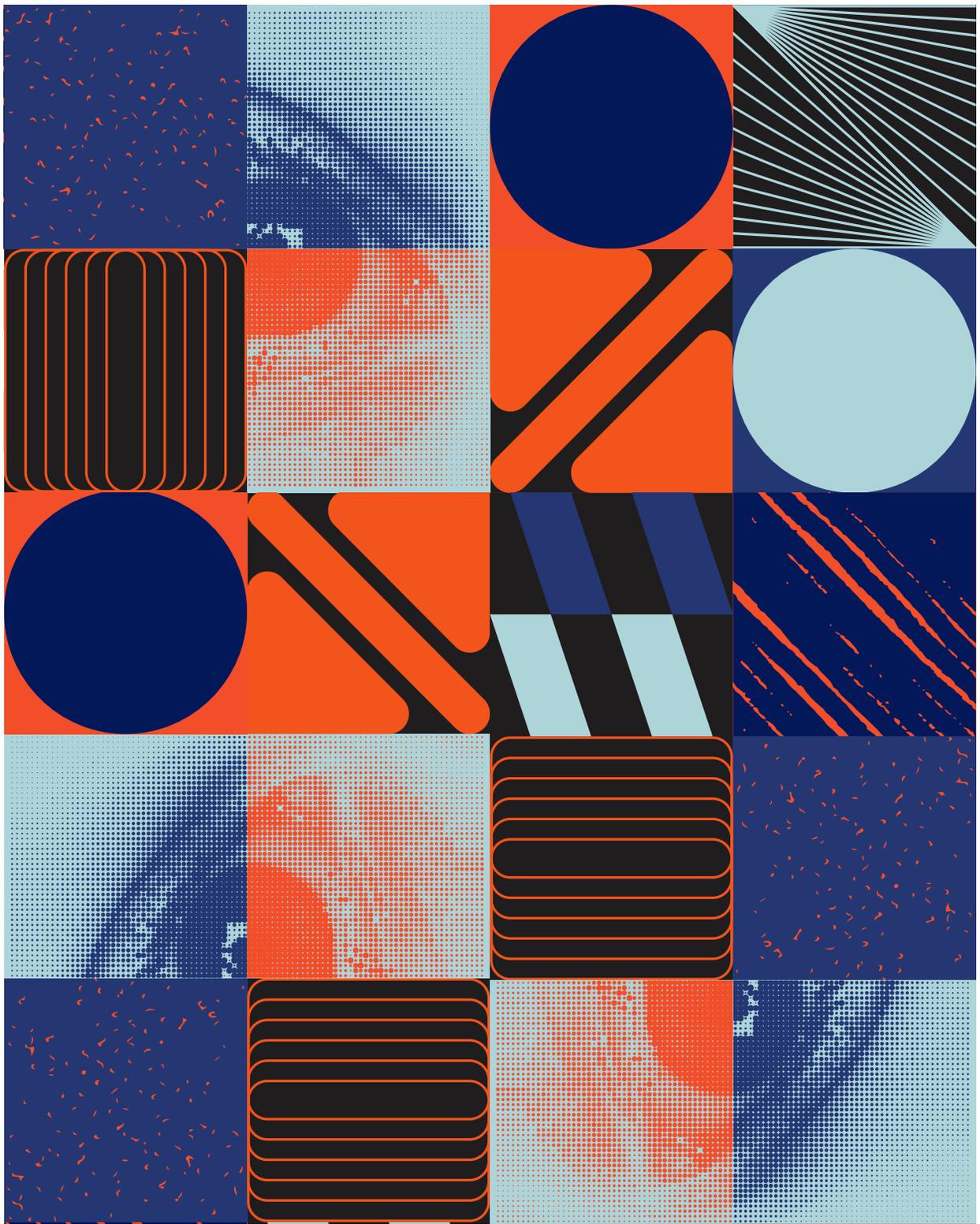
I love Science and my Science teachers have supported my dream. They've always taken it seriously. Next year I'm going to Space Camp with the school, but for now they are challenging and inspiring me to achieve academically, to push my learning and knowledge frontiers.

I was home-schooled and chose Hagley as a high school as it gave me the best of both worlds. The freedom to follow my dreams and the structure and support to reach them; to achieve academically on a national scale. Hagley lets me be what I want, to learn what I want. It allows me to be myself.

**The freedom to
follow my dreams
and the structure
and support to
reach them**

Charlotte James

LEARN YOUR WAY
at Hagley in Year 12 and 13



2020

At Hagley, the length of my hair or the style of my clothes has never been a barrier to my learning. I feel free to express myself and I can focus on my interests- at the moment, I'm focused on architecture and design. It's important to me to keep my options open for the future and I've had the flexibility at Hagley to take the Maths and Physics courses I'd need to become an Architect, as well as the likes of Painting and Motion Graphics to prepare for a career in a creative field.

I feel trusted at Hagley to make choices about my learning. The teachers have encouraged me in the challenges I've set for myself and supported me when I've taken on too much! Even though my weeks can be quite busy with classes, sports, School Council, and as the Student BOT Representative, I have freedom in my schedule to catch up with friends and spend extra time in the Art room which I love.

Just like me, Hagley is diverse. I've met all kinds of people and we can all be ourselves, without limitations.

CERWYN

Cerwyn Bach-Strong Student 2020



Before I came to Hagley, I'd stopped enjoying school. I can't believe how much has changed in a year! I live out of town, in Waipara, but I'm so happy to get up early and make the trip into school. My favourite thing is how free I feel to be myself here, without judgement, or feeling the need to change myself to fit in.

I know I want to work with children in the future, either in Education or Social Work, so I've chosen courses in Health, Child and Family studies (where we visit the Hagley Preschool), and te reo Māori. I already feel prepared for a smooth transition into tertiary study next year. I study full-time at Hagley, but because I don't have a class on Wednesdays, I can work at my cafe job. I know that learning how to balance study and part-time work will be really important during uni.

Hagley has encouraged connections to my Māoritanga and this year I've really strengthened the ties with my iwi, Ngāpuhi, and my hapū. I also play Basketball and I'm helping to organise our Senior Formal. I've been able to meet lots of different people and have blossomed into who I am today.

EMILY

Emily Dellaway Student 2020



I'd describe Hagley as a place that gives people the room to discover their own reason for learning, and then supports them in that direction.

Te Whare ki Te Puna Wai o Papa has been such an important space for me. It's a pocket of our school that operates under tikanga Māori- it's open to everyone and has a real community feel. The kaiako/teachers of the Māori department see students as whole people, not only as pupils, and I've flourished there. My potential has been nurtured, and I've had opportunities to grow as a leader, and a person. Recently, I had the chance to co-teach a reo Māori session for students training to be teachers- something I would never have imagined myself doing a couple of years ago.

I'm interested in art, music, and language- they're all expressions of our identity- and here at Hagley I've been able to pursue each of these. I take Music, Printmaking, Māori, Kapa Haka, Film, and Classics. The variety of subjects is why I chose to come to Hagley for my last two years of high school. I came from a smaller school where there was a lot of freedom but being smaller there were fewer classes on offer. There's also been the flexibility to take six subjects- the usual is five- and there was space in my timetable to do that.

The two councils I belong to at Hagley (Student Council and Te Urungi) have given me an appreciation of how important it is that young people have a voice and are listened to. We care about our world, the people in it, and doing what we can to make positive change- that feels meaningful here.

I think of Hagley as being like the launching pad that I'll set out from into the future. I feel confident now, in heading into the world.

SOLOMON

Solomon Davis Student 2020



Hagley is a place where you'll feel safe and be able to find your place- no matter who you are. I came to Hagley as a Year 12 student because I wanted more control and freedom over my education. At my previous school, there were subjects you had to take right through school, but I can make my own choices here.

This year, I'm taking three subjects at Hagley, and two days a week I study Electrical Engineering at Ara. I don't have to choose between one interest or the other. I've been given a head start on my future career and have been able to experience a tertiary environment while having the security of my classes at Hagley. My teachers have offered lots of flexibility with the assessments and I haven't had to worry about missing tests or deadlines.

I think Hagley does a great job of preparing you for the real world. The variety of people, courses, and the whole environment realistically reflects society- more than other schools where everything can feel the same! I feel positive and confident in relating to people from a range of backgrounds, perspectives, and places. For me, Hagley has been the perfect balance of structure and freedom.

BEAU

Beau White Student 2020



My dream is to own a restaurant where I'd serve traditional Afghani food, not just to people from Afghanistan, but for everyone to try it. At Hagley, I'm preparing for my next step which is to gain entry to a course in Hospitality. In New Zealand, as women we belong to ourselves. It's important to me that I can support myself and I have more options here than in the small village in Afghanistan where I came from.

I chose Hagley because I can study subjects like Maths and Science, and learn English at the same time- I know this will help me with my future plans. Science is probably my favourite class. We learn so many interesting things about the world. I go to the Homework Centre once a week in the evenings for some help with my writing; I find it enjoyable because we choose to go. There's also a translator available at Hagley who I have seen help students with many things, not just schoolwork.

What I also like about Hagley is that there is time in my week to take my classes but also for other things. I have time to help my mother, and take her to her course, as well as time I can spend in the Library here at school, reading or catching up on my studies. I've met lots of people and am friends with people from so many places like Somalia, Ethiopia, Fiji, and the Phillipines. The adult Kiwis here are helpful, friendly, and smiley. I'd like to make more friends with young Kiwi students, they seem nice too, and I'd have the chance to practise my English skills.

RAIHANA

Raihana Akbari Student 2020



Education is important in my family and we spent time researching schools before deciding on Hagley. Having been home-schooled up until Year 9, I knew that bells and a uniform would be a backwards step; I wanted to take more personal responsibility when it came to school. There's a focus on learners as individuals at Hagley and I've always felt supported in making decisions and exploring a range of interests.

It was a subject clash in Year 12 that really helped to set me on the path I'm on today. I was able to take Level 3 Drama and Dance that year which meant I was working towards NCEA Level 2 and 3 at the same time. Following that, in Yr13, I was accepted into the Hagley Theatre Company's full-time performance and theatre course. Now, I'm 100% committed to pursuing a career in the performing arts. The chance to work with industry professionals every day in this course makes me feel confident and excited about the future. Next year, I hope to study towards a Performing Arts degree at Toi Whakaari or UniTec.

In my time at Hagley I've seen the positive way that teachers and students can work together as equals. Whenever I've had an idea about my learning pathway, I was able to talk it over with someone and I felt genuinely listened to. I'm always telling people about this place and how many unexpected journeys can unfold here.

GISELE

Gisele Proud Student 2020



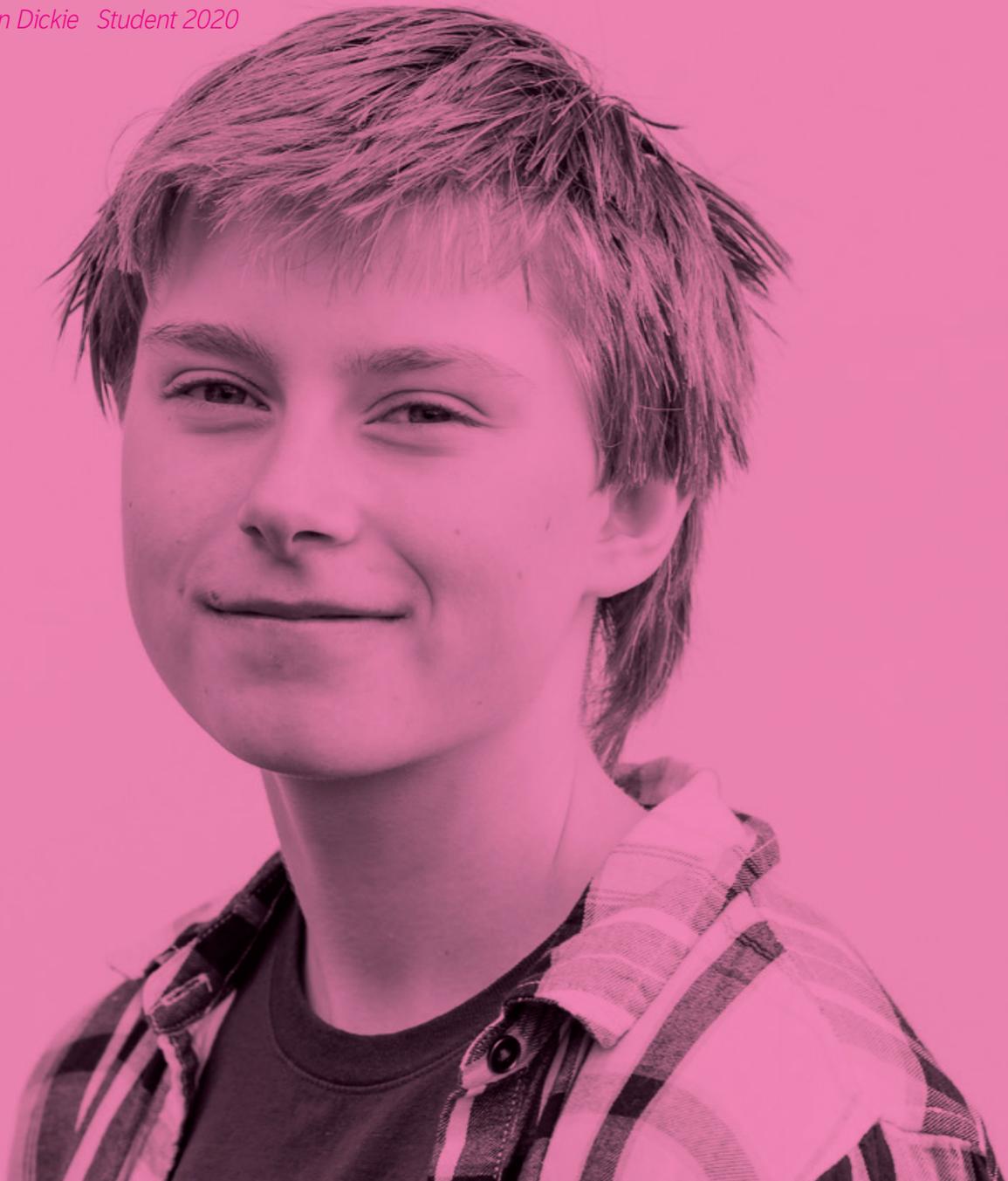
I've never felt pressured into specialisation at Hagley. My interests are broad, and include climbing, music, academics, and most especially, the natural world- where there's so much more to learn. I've been able to explore my passions and projects here, without having to choose between them or narrowing down my options for the future.

Being at Hagley has helped me to improve my self-confidence; I've found the teachers and students here to be supportive instead of intimidating. My teachers are also always willing to help with personal projects that relate to the subject, giving me the chance to learn lots of new skills- like the time I found a slime mould and took it to the Science Department for a closer look under one of their microscopes. Things like that really show how supportive the culture is here.

I'm busy most lunch times with activities like Juggling Club, Environment Group, and Scholarship study groups. One of the things I love about Hagley is, you can get involved in what you're interested in no matter what your prior experience is, and if a group doesn't exist- you can probably start one up!

LIADAN

Liadan Dickie Student 2020



I arrived in New Zealand in 2017 and spent a year at another high school before joining Hagley last year. We learned how to read and write in English in Sāmoa, but living and studying in an English-speaking environment is completely different! At Hagley, I've been able to take English Language Learning classes alongside my passion subjects. My teachers are all helpful, and the Careers Department are great at supporting the students' plans for the future.

I'd wanted to study Nursing, so I looked into the Hagley Pre-Health Studies course for this year. The more I thought about it though, I really don't like blood and I don't think that would have worked out! I switched focus and signed up for the Early Childhood Education course instead. I'm so glad I did. We spend regular time in the Hagley Preschool, and I've had the chance to see what the career actually involves. I feel happy and connected in the class- we spend five days a week together- and we're more friends than classmates now.

My older sister is studying towards her master's degree in Wellington and she's always encouraging my studies. Having had the chance to try out different courses and explore my interests at Hagley, I've been able to find my passion. I feel confident moving forward and am planning to continue my ECE studies at university.

SU

Su Jerome Student 2020



I've always been creative. When I was little, I'd prefer to make my own toys out of different bits and pieces that I'd put together. Now I'm older, I'm still doing that but I'm creating sculptures instead of toys. In the Sculpture course I take at Hagley, I've learned that sculptures can contain symbols, and incredibly deep ideas, but sometimes they can mean nothing at all! I'm inspired by what I see around me, and I'm always looking for new mediums- some of my favourite materials are copper wire and bone. I also take Animation where I get to see my drawings come to life. It was the opportunity to take interesting classes that drew me to Hagley in the first place.

In the past I've experienced bullying for being deaf but that hasn't happened at Hagley. I feel comfortable and accepted here. I've found the students are pretty non-judgemental and willing to have a conversation and get to know each other. My friends and I gravitated towards each other in Year 9 but this year we've been making other connections through our different subjects and our group is expanding.

I think Hagley encourages responsibility while respecting our independence. It's certainly helped me to develop my maturity and explore my passions. Going into Year 11, there was a clash between two subjects and I was able to take a Level 2 class to make space for Psychology. Next year I'm keen to pick up the Creative Writing class. I don't know what my future direction is but I'm going to make the most of my time here working on the projects that I love.

JESS

Jess Haigh Student 2020



I've never been told that my dreams are too big at Hagley. Instead, I've been given opportunities to pursue any goal I've set for myself. Next year, I'll head to Victoria University to begin a degree in Psychology- I want to achieve a master's, or even PhD qualification. What motivates me is a wish to help people who are struggling with their mental health; I'm also hoping to encourage more inclusivity within the field, like widespread use of NZSL to help people who are hearing impaired like myself. I've loved being able to take the Level 3 Psychology course at Hagley and it's confirmed that I'm heading in the right direction.

Life is full of commitments like whānau, work, sports, coaching, and study. My teachers have shown flexibility and understanding when I've needed it. I've been able to catch up with anything I've missed, as well as take up opportunities to extend my learning. Our maturity and independence as young people is encouraged here, and the teachers work with us to find solutions and new ways of doing things. I feel trusted to make decisions for myself, not just about my education, but my wellbeing too.

Hagley has encouraged my academic abilities as well as allowing me to express my full self as a Year 13 Māori student. We're proud of our name, Te Puna Wai o Waipapa, and I can feel proud here of my Ngāi Tahu whakapapa.

GEORGIE

Georgie Trigg Student 2020



I chose Hagley for the people, the subjects, and the culture. The mix of students and teachers here make for a great community. There's heaps of diversity, kindness, flexibility as well as plenty of opportunities. I've learned a lot, both academically and in life, and I know I'll leave here with an open mind and an appreciation and respect for people of all backgrounds.

Hagley's flexible approach has made it possible for me to be involved in lots of activities outside of class while also working towards my academic goals. Taking part in lots of sport, going on Outdoor Education trips, and my leadership commitments have all been accommodated for. I can work with teachers to make a plan for catching up on assessments and class work without missing out on other opportunities.

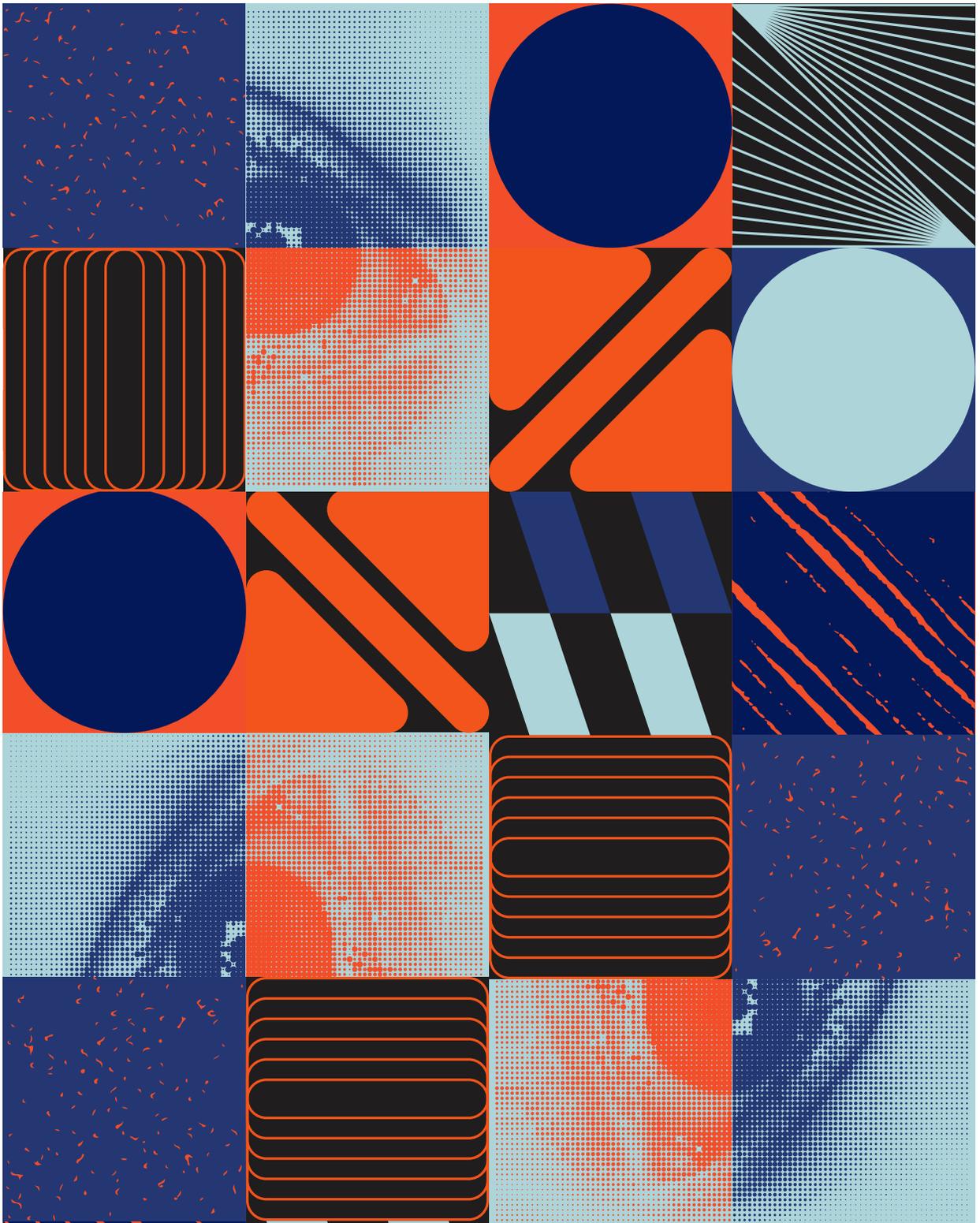
I take a range of classes at Hagley including Psychology, Computer Science, Classics, Calculus, and Physics. One of the unique things about Hagley is the After3 classes and I've been able to study German on Wednesday evenings. My academic needs are met here, which means I can learn at the level that's right for me.

PER

Per Tonascia Student 2020



2021



THERE'S A BIGGER CONNECTION AT HAGLEY

BAZZ

I've never been happier at a school, and I've been to a few. Hagley is the first school I've gone to where I've felt instantly comfortable. I haven't had to adjust or take a few weeks to feel right.

Coming to Hagley was a huge changing point in my life. At previous schools I felt like I didn't belong, but here, everyone belongs. I came out as transgender at Hagley. Coming here gave me the confidence to come out. It's just so welcoming and so accepting. No-one tells you that you have to do things a certain way or be a certain way.

The no uniform was a big selling point, especially as a trans student, but it's the people I stay for. I've made really good friends, real friends. There's a bigger connection at Hagley that makes it different to other schools.

The teachers are different too. They don't talk down to you but treat you like an equal, which makes being in class so much easier. The work is the same, but it feels easier because the teachers are so encouraging and no-one's on your back. I've had some bad encounters with teachers in the past, but I'm yet to meet a bad teacher at Hagley.

For me as a learner if I respect my teachers, it makes all the difference. It makes being in class so much easier. I'm coming here by choice. I show up by choice because I like being here.

Bazz Burns Student 2021



ANWALLISE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY

HARD TO FIT IN

Moving to Hagley was the best decision I've ever made. Music's the only thing I want to do with my life so I couldn't deal with the whole mainstream learning approach. In the School of Music we get so many opportunities that you don't get at other schools. If you want to do music, the School of Music is the way to go. The course is 50% theory and 50% performance so there are heaps of performance opportunities with audiences. If you want to work towards UE you can do that too.

Everyone in the School of Music is working towards something. I'm a singer songwriter, but last year when I first started here I couldn't sing for shite. This week though, I found out that I got in the top 45 for the Lion Foundation songwriting competition and I've won a recording session. Next year, I'm hoping to get into a NASDA course.

Hagley is one of those schools where you don't have to try hard to fit in; where you can be yourself. I wouldn't change Hagley for anything. The teachers just get you and you connect with them if they're young or old. They always seem to know if you're having a bad day, and they just take their time with you. It helps that you can call them by their first name. It helps build trust.

Analise Twemlow - Student 2021



BENI

THERE'S A BALANCE OF INDEPENDENCE AND
GETTING THE HELP YOU NEED

I came to Hagley because of the subject options. I'm a high achiever, but I've learnt more from exploring different subject options than from just being extended in single subjects. I like that you get to pick your own path here. I came for the computing classes but ended up on a different path. I got a ton of support from careers who found me a job, encouraged me to take a range of different subjects, and helped me onto an Aviation course. Now they are helping me plan my learning programme so I can train as a pilot.

It's important to me that I get to choose what I do, to keep exploring options and to do well. The teachers here support you in whatever you choose. There's a balance of independence and getting the help you need. The learning is more catered to your pace. You don't have to keep up with everyone else or with how the year is 'meant to be' planned. If you're doing well, they let you move on to other standards, or to excellence; if you're behind they'll let you slow down and take your time.

There's no real barrier between the teachers and students here. It's more than just calling them by their first names. You're both trying to achieve the same goal – helping your learning.

Beni Rae - Student 2021



WE'RE A FAMILY - A FAMILY OF INDIVIDUALS

NOVA

Ko Hikurangi, ko Whiria, ko Te Maiki, ko Aoraki ngā maunga
Ko Waiapu, ko Hokianga, ko Taumarere, ko Waitaki ngā wai tapu
Ko Porourangi, ko Puhī, ko Tahu Pōtiki ngā tāngata
Ko Nova Taukamo tōku ingoa

I've always been a very independent learner and like being in my own headspace and the teachers really respect that. Everyone has their own quirks here and we are accepted as individuals, but you always find like-minded people with shared interests. Everyone's on a first name basis, so you grow real relationships and empower one another through mutual respect.

When I first started at Hagley, I signed up for as many sports as possible. The PE department created opportunities for us to play alongside some of the seniors and I made many friends from all year levels. I also get to coach and play basketball, ki o rahi and korfbal at the highest level. I'm not sure what my future pathways are yet, as I love both sports and music, but I know I'll be supported in whatever I do.

This year I had a timetable clash with Te Reo Māori and psychology. The school helped me to keep learning my reo by finding an online platform for me. I've participated in an external leadership course 'Rangatahi tū Rangatira' which helps to set us up for life outside of school. I'm also on the student council and the Māori Council 'Te Urungi' which is a collective group for students, parents and staff voice.

The Hagley community is encouraging and unlocks the potential in all of us; it's a great place to grow and become the person you were meant to be.

Nova Taukamo - Student 2021



MY TEACHERS HAVE SHOWN
ME THAT I CAN HANDLE
ANYTHING

RUMMANA

Hagley has helped me grow into the best version of myself. It's mostly because of the support. The teachers are always listening, and I know they'll do anything I ask them. They take in my opinions and feelings and don't disregard me. With the subjects I'm not so good at, they go out of their way to help me and show me that I can do it. My teachers know that I can put pressure on myself, so they're always reminding me that I'm doing a good job.

I love that everyone is so different here. Everyone brings different experiences and perspectives. I'm Fijian and my values are different – we are not so open about some things – and my teachers take this into account. They will try another approach, so I don't feel uncomfortable in certain activities. During Ramadan when I was fasting, the teachers understood that I might find some activities challenging. I'm comfortable talking about my religion here.

I've learnt a lot about myself at Hagley. I've learnt how to become more independent and to take charge of my learning, because my teachers have shown me that I can handle anything. It's helped me think about my future. Now I'm thinking about training as a lawyer. I'd love to open a legal Aid organisation that supports people from ethnic communities who need help but can't afford it.

Rummana Ali - Student 2021



THERE'S A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY

PIE

I chose Hagley because it allows me to be who I am. My mum had gone here and told me that at this school I'd have the freedom to do what I want and to be what I want. So, I said that's it – I want to be free! At Hagley, I'm free to wear what I like, to dye my hair any colour I want, and nobody judges me for it. I'm just accepted.

What's most special about Hagley is the connections you make with teachers. They're so kind and loving. The teachers help you learn, and they listen when you say you don't understand something. Then they explain it until you do.

I also like being able to take a variety of subjects and to choose my own programme. This year I'm exploring my creative side by doing a lot of art subjects. I'm taking Design, Photography, Art and The School of Fashion. This has helped me think about my future, and how all these subjects can come together to help me get where I want to be.

Where do I want to be? This year I've been in the Hagley School of Fashion. The culture is so supportive – you walk in and straight away you feel at home. It's like a family. My plan is to spend another year or two in the School of Fashion and then go on to the Fashion course at ARA.

There's a strong sense of community throughout the whole College, even though everyone's different. I love it when we have themed dress-up days and everyone participates. It feels like we are all in it together.

Pie Frances - Student 2021



I'VE DONE SO MUCH AND
CHANGED SO MUCH

HEATHER

I came to Hagley because I wasn't enjoying the structure of learning at my old school. I'm very arty and I wanted to do multiple art subjects. When I asked questions about my learning options at my old school, they were like no, you can't do that, but here they were like, sure. Why not? Here, I asked, can I get this standard examined at level 3, or can I try doing this instead of what everyone else is doing, and they said, yeah. Give it a go.

It's been a really good move. I've done so many things I couldn't do at my old school. Last year in year 12, I did a mix of level 2 and level 3 subjects and standards and ended up getting a level 3 excellence endorsement. I did level 3 Painting and level 3 Dance, which meant this year I could have an easier year.

Hagley isn't just flexible with timetables and course structures though, but also with how they are taught. I'm doing year 13 sculpture and I never thought I'd enjoy it, but it's awesome. It's not just traditional sculpture; I've done crochet and worked with wood and wire. In painting last year, when I asked the teacher what I had to do, she said: "just paint. Just paint your folio". I could paint what I wanted.

I can't believe it's only been two years – it feels like way longer and I've done so much and changed so much. Before Covid, I was a competitive Irish dancer, but now I'm focusing on opportunities in Drama. I take a course called English with Drama, which is really good, and I've done lots of interschool competitions. I did the Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival and we just performed at Theatre Fest and got into the regionals. I'm also a member of the Court Theatre Youth Company.

Next year, I'm applying for Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School. I'm putting in applications for both the acting and design course. If that doesn't work out, I'll do Theatre Studies and Sociology at Otago.

Heather Wright - Student 2021



FINN

THEY DON'T CARE HOW YOU GET THERE, BUT
THAT YOU GET THERE

I like how we are encouraged to take responsibility for our learning at Hagley. It's more up to you and the teachers let you learn the way you want to learn. What's important to the teachers is that you do well. That's what they focus on. They don't care how you get there, but that you get there.

If I have homework, it's because I haven't finished my classwork, not because a teacher's 'given' it to me. My achievement goals are my incentive to work and learn. No-one's bullying me into learning. I'm learning because I want to, but the teachers are all invested in your learning too. They want you to succeed or reach your goals, and they work with you to get there.

I'm quite dyslexic, so that's been a bit of a journey. My teachers trust that I can manage it myself, but also help me when I need it. I work outside of the classroom quite a bit because I use speech to text apps, so they have to be flexible.

The teachers at Hagley don't sweat the small stuff; there's no detentions and no-one's telling you to pull your socks up! They talk to you like a normal person, not like an authority figure. They talk to you like a friend.

Finn Gray-Swann - Student 2021



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