



## WILLIAM COLENZO COLLEGE'S INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES

At William Colenso College, International Students have consistently achieved well in a variety of fields. It is particularly pleasing to note that on several occasions International Students have taken out the top academic awards – *DUX* or *PROXIME ACCESSIT*. Here are a few of our international award winners:



**Shen Xiao Yang**  
China  
*Parents League Scholarship*  
2001  
Victoria University



**Hu Chau Jun**  
China  
*PROXIME ACCESSIT*  
2002  
Auckland University



**Kana Tanji**  
Japan  
*Design Award*  
2003  
Eastern Institute of Tech.



**Olivia Goh**  
Malaysia  
*PROXIME ACCESSIT*  
2003  
University of Canterbury



**Miki Higo**  
Japan  
*Design Award*  
2004  
Returned to Japan



**Zhang Jian-Shao**  
China  
*PROXIME ACCESSIT*  
2004  
University, Australia



**Jack Chen**  
Hong Kong  
*DUX*  
2004  
University of Hong Kong



**Lei Ka Ying**  
Hong Kong  
*Leader of the Orchestra*  
2006  
Victoria University



**Nguyen Thien An**  
Vietnam  
*DUX*  
2010  
Auckland University



**Lena Zimmermann**  
Germany  
*DUX*  
2013  
University in Germany



**Tsai Yi-Kai**  
Taiwan  
*DUX*  
2016  
University of Singapore



## TOP OF THE TOP

The outstanding success of our international students is clearly illustrated by these students who were awarded one of the two top academic prizes while at William Colenso College. The two top prizes are:

**DUX (Centennial Cup):** This is awarded to the top senior academic student at the end of each school year. Academic results are the main consideration, but all teachers are consulted and the award is made only after much debate. It is often a difficult choice, but the student who is finally named DUX has truly earned the award. Since 2004 three international students have been awarded the DUX prize.

**PROXIME ACCESSIT:** This is the award given to the second to top academic student each year. Often there is very little difference between the achievements of the DUX and the student who is awarded the PROXIME ACCESSIT cup. This is also a very prestigious award. Three international students have also won this award in recent years.



### 2002

**Hu Chao Jun**, from the People's Republic of China, and better known to us all at Colenso as 'Queen', proved that with hard work and determination anything might happen.

*"This was my greatest experience and I am most thankful to Colenso for giving me such a wonderful time during my last year of high school education overseas."*

At the end of the 2002 school year she was named PROXIME ACCESSIT and went on to Victoria University in Wellington where she studied for a double degree – Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Commerce and Administration.

I had my doubts about coming to New Zealand, but my host family did heaps to make me feel at home. Everyone was friendly and I had the freedom to choose my own subjects. I can safely say that the decision to come to New Zealand was the best decision I have made in my life. It was my stepping stone to my future.



### 2003

**Olivia Goh** from Malaysia was our PROXIME ACCESSIT for 2003. The amazing thing about Olivia is that she gained the award while still in Year 12. At that time, the DUX award was only made to Year 13 students, otherwise she would have gained the top academic prize. The rules have since changed, so Year 12 and 13 students are now eligible for the DUX award.

After completing her time at William Colenso College, Olivia went off to Canterbury University in Christchurch where she graduated with an Honours Degree in Chemical Engineering. She now works as a Chemical Analyst at one of New Zealand's biggest pulp and paper manufacturing factories.



## MORE FROM THE TOP

I selected Napier because of the seasons and it has the best weather. I chose Colenso because I found a wide range of subjects and because it is not a big school. Because the classes are small, the teachers can respond to our questions quickly. It was here that I gained the most success I have had since I began my education.



### 2004

This was a very special year for the International Department because in 2004 International students were awarded both top academic awards.

**Zhang Jian-Shao** (left) from China won the PROXIME ACCESSIT cup. He went on from William Colenso College to attend university in Australia.

**Jack Chen** (right) from Hong Kong was DUX for 2004. He then attended the University of Hong Kong and earned a degree in aero-engineering. Since then he has joined his parents and started a business in Hong Kong.



### 2010

Our 2010 DUX was Vietnamese student **Mark Nguyen Thien An**. He followed his older sister who was also an international student at William Colenso College. Mark was prepared to study hard and no-one was surprised when he was awarded the premier academic prize at the end of the 2010 school year.

From Colenso, Mark went on to the University of Auckland where he studied finance and economics. He has the ultimate aim of eventually returning to Vietnam and hopes to play an important role in the economic development of his home country.

"Napier is one of the most beautiful cities in New Zealand. In my opinion it was the ideal place to balance my daily routine between study and leisure time. William Colenso College has prepared me really well for my tertiary education and has provided me with my first steps to succeed in my life."



### 2013

In 2013 Lena Zimmermann from Germany became our first European international student to be awarded the top academic prize for the year. With more German students now opting to stay on to attempt the New Zealand University Entrance qualification, she will probably not be the last. Lena gained the award through her outstanding work in a range of subjects such as Chemistry, Statistics, English, History and Barista.

Not only was she heavily involved in her academic studies. During her time at Colenso she was an enthusiastic participant in many cultural and sporting activities as well.

When she left William Colenso College at the end of 2013, Lena returned to Germany with the intention of continuing her higher education in a European university

The thing I am most impressed with this school is the freedom of choice and flexibility of subject selection. This school gave me the opportunity to study at the age level above me, which is what I always wanted, but no other school had ever offered me the chance.



### **2016**

**TSAI Yi-Kai** from Taiwan completed an outstanding year in 2016. Although only a Year 12 student, Kai gained NCEA Level 3 with an Excellence Endorsement. As well as being awarded the 'DUX' for 2016 he also gained the McKelvie Cup (All round excellence in Year 12), the Scinde Cup (Top all round excellence – male student) and was the top Physics student in New Zealand enrolled at the New Zealand Correspondence School. He also sat the entrance exam for Oxford University and gained 'High Distinction' in the Australian Big Science Competition. Before this, in 2015 he gained both NCEA Level 1 and Level 2 with Excellence Endorsements despite attending school for only the second half of the year.

Not surprisingly, Kai was accepted to study at the University of Singapore, one of the world's top institutions.