

link up

July 09
Issue 01

Connecting Correspondence
School students, whānau and
their community ○○

Te Kura ā-Tuhi
The Correspondence School



Slim Sam

TCS student switches fast food and computer games for a healthy lifestyle and a renewed passion for learning. ○○

Growing jobs

Get involved in a career that is rewarding and where jobs actually do grow on trees! ○○

Second chance students

Ensuring the success of TCS students learning in New Zealand's youth prison units. ○○



Message from Mike

Matariki hunga nui – Matariki has many admirers

Matariki is celebrated with education, remembrance and the planting of new trees and crops signalling new beginnings. Matariki was the optimum time for new harvests, and ceremonial offerings to the land-based gods Rongo, Uenuku and Whiro to ensure good crops for the coming year. It was also seen as a perfect time to learn about the land we live on and to remember whakapapa (ancestry) who have passed from this world to the next and the legacy they have left behind.

Welcome to the first issue of *Link Up*, our new school newsletter. We know that learning at a distance can be isolating for both students and their families/whānau. A key focus for the School is making stronger connections with, and between, our students and their communities. We are doing this by having more staff in the regions and by improving communication with students and whānau. *Link Up* and our new website at www.correspondence.school.nz are just two of the ways we want

to keep in touch with you and support you in your learning.

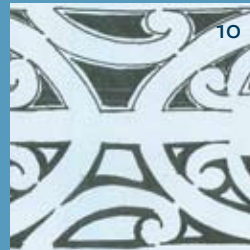
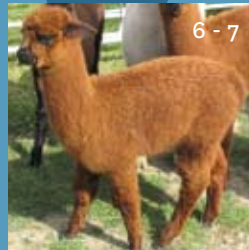
The new look of our newsletter is the result of feedback from you and from our staff. Most of you liked the content but felt the newsletter needed a new look, so we hope you like the changes we have made.

You also told us you wanted to read more stories about students, news from the four regions, and information about courses and careers. So this issue includes some great stories about our students and their achievements, and the first of a series of articles about the eight learning areas of the New Zealand curriculum. It also includes news and events from each of the regions.

Our next issue will introduce our new regional relationship coordinators, and include a feature on careers, more news about students, and examples of student work.

Naku noa, na

Mike Hollings
Chief Executive



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A bang of a time – TCS students enjoy experimenting at our first ever chemistry event day, with positive results.

Life-changing moves for Sam

Learning with TCS has played a key part in the success story of a 15-year-old Mosgiel student who has switched fast food and computer games for exercise, a healthy diet and a renewed passion for learning.

Two years ago Sam Brown's life consisted of TV, Xbox and 'doing nothing, eating everything'. These days it revolves around exercise, a healthy diet, goal setting and a real desire to achieve at school. His new lease on life has also seen him lose 48 kg – down from 120 kg to a healthy 72 kg.

'Joining TCS has been absolutely brilliant,' says Sam, who was home schooled before joining TCS a year ago. 'I can think about the things I want to do in my day, like exercise and chatting with friends and then fit them around my school work,' he says. 'It also means that I don't have other pressures from other school kids around me.'

Sam's Mum, Joanne Cole, says the flexibility of learning with TCS means that Sam can continue to focus on losing weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle while still

being able to continue with his school work. 'TCS completely supports other areas of his life,' she says.

Sam is now studying five subjects at NCEA Level 1, which is a huge achievement.

'He started off a year behind, but six weeks into the term it became obvious he was well able to do NCEA,' says Joanne. 'Sam started off behind the eight ball and now he has really flourished.'

'He says he might stay until Year 13 now, which would have never happened previously. Now he doesn't just see school as something to get over and done with.'

Both Sam and his mum attend event days in their local area, which they say are a great way to meet new people and feel part of a community. It is also a great way for Sam to meet new people who are also learning at a distance.

The support they receive from Sam's liaison teacher, Nick Bates, has also made a huge difference to Sam's learning. 'Having Nick visit is awesome, he gives me



lots of positive feedback which builds my self-esteem,' he says.

'Sam has already achieved 43 NCEA credits this year which is an impressive achievement,' says Nick.

'Sam has faced some challenges over the years but his determination and the great support he receives from his mother has helped him get to where he is today.'

'It's been a real privilege to work with Sam this year – he's not only doing well with his TCS work, he has a zany sense of humour and is a humble and genuine young man.'

Sam is keen on working in the construction industry or joining the police force once he finishes his schooling. He's already doing some work experience at a local construction company and he attends short courses at Otago Polytechnic.

'He's got a hopeful plan now,' says his mum. 'Before he was quiet, withdrawn, isolated and solitary, now he's focused, independent and almost invincible!'



Otago Daily Times

Growing jobs

In New Zealand we do actually grow jobs on trees, farms and in gardens – unfortunately not many people realise this.

The primary sector, which includes industries like agriculture, horticulture, forestry and aquaculture, is struggling to attract skilled people. To add to the situation, the number of students studying agriculture and horticulture is dropping.

The recent Horticultural and Agricultural Teachers Association (HATA) conference in Wellington highlighted the importance of New Zealand's primary sector and also served as a good reminder that students who do follow this career path can have rewarding futures.

Correspondence School teacher Richard Self attended the conference and he says qualifications in agriculture and horticulture can open doors to a wide range of careers in marketing, research, and business management as well as the traditional growing of crops and farming.

'There is a real need for people to participate at all levels, and here at The Correspondence School we offer a wide range of science, horticulture and agriculture courses that are relevant to these industries,' he says.

'Students can do very well in this industry; one of the key points at the conference was made by Frank Brebmuhl of Federated Farmers who gave the example of one young man managing a farm, earning a \$100,000 plus salary by the age of 28.'

This view was backed up by presenters from the agricultural and horticultural industry training organisations who said that out of more than 22,000 graduates in 2007, only approximately 360 had horticultural or agricultural degrees – yet these industries are vital to New Zealand's economy and long-term environmental sustainability.

'The primary sector is key to our economy and to maintain and improve our situation



we need skilled, innovative people with applied science backgrounds,' says Richard.

Horticulture and agriculture in action

The conference included field trips to a number of locations in the Wellington area, which provided good examples of possible work opportunities for students considering horticulture or agriculture as a career.

The group visited an organic apple orchard on the Kapiti Coast, which sparked conversation around pest management and prevention, and the fact that marketing is vitally important for business success.

Visiting a flower and fruit market in Porirua showed the different ways of buying and selling, while a trip to an alpaca farm provided an opportunity to explore fibre production. 'While this industry is in its infancy, it has great potential – the fibre is finer than wool, is 30 percent lighter and is hard wearing,' says Richard.

Some of the group also visited a beef farm where there was an in-depth discussion about the importance of genetics and breeding with a lecturer from Massey University.



Finally the team headed to a deer farm which, in 2003, received the Wrightson Habitat Improvement Award and the Wellington Region Ballance Environment Award. While running deer and cattle, the farm has a significant area in forestry, and has conserved a number of wetlands. 'This is proof that effective farm and nursery management requires a wide range of skills, including a scientific understanding of plant growth, accountancy, fencing, genetics (plant and animal breeding) and international marketing,' says Richard.

'The field trips proved that for all of these career paths a good science education is helpful, if not necessary.'

Science courses available to TCS students include:

- Science – curriculum levels 4–5 and NCEA Level 1
- Everyday science – NCEA Level 1
- Agriculture – NCEA Levels 2–3
- Horticulture – NCEA Levels 2–3
- Biology – NCEA Levels 2–3
- Chemistry – NCEA Levels 2–3
- Physics – NCEA Levels 2–3.

To find out more about each subject visit our website www.correspondence.school.nz or call 0800 65 99 88 and ask to speak to one of our science teachers.

Elephant Ghosts

By Romany Latham, Year 8 from
Maungaturoto

Ivories ghosts moves
Heavy footsteps shatter silence
Ivories ghosts look skyward
Searching for a reason why

Ivories ghosts are frightened
Their number dwindle down to nothing
They fear for their hope dwindling down to nothing
They fear for their freedom dwindling down to nothing
They fear for their life dwindling down to nothing
They fear for their world dwindling down to nothing



My whānau members
by Leon Tepohe, Year 10 from Napier



Early childhood student
Charlotte Cooper, age 4 from Picton



Early childhood student
Emma Kinney, age 3 from Hyde, Central Otago

William's Graveyard Cough

William Hughes, Year 9 from Hastings

When William woke in the morning his throat felt like a cheese grater. He coughs, "Agh ... agh ... agh" The sound was like a knife going down from his throat to his chest.

I'm dying, he thought and coughed again. The sound got worse. He could feel the phlegm at the back of his throat.

William reached for a tissue and spat out the phlegm. There was blood! I really am dying, he thought. Somebody needs to help me.

"Alice!" he called to his cousin who was sleeping in the next room.

There was no answer. But she's talking on her stupid cell phone he thought and coughed again. The pain was deadly.

"Alice," he screamed, "Get into this room, I'm dying". Alice appeared in the doorway. "Shut up," she said. "There's nothing wrong with you, just get up out of that bed and get ready for Leg Up Trust."

"Okay," William said. "If I die it's all your fault." He reached for his cigarette and lighter.

"No wonder you've got a cough, William. Smokers always have a graveyard cough."

Something so precious

Abel Van Booma, Year 4 from Waimate

Pretty, medium sized with blue and green eyes, passionate, caring and loving.

She quietly speaks and joyfully laughs but she has angry moments.

I love that she teaches me and provides delicious food, spicy chilli beans, saucy lasagne and creamy porridge.

Even though she has rough skin she is still cuddly, spongy and squeezable.

Her smells are fresh, clean, minty and like homemade bread, she is mum.

Students with a second chance

Ensuring the success of TCS students learning in New Zealand's youth prison units was the focus of a workshop held in Wellington earlier this year.

In March, six teachers from Waikeria Prison youth unit, Hawke's Bay Regional Prison youth unit and Christchurch Prison youth unit met in Wellington to discuss ways of working better together for their students.

TCS currently has 311 Department of Corrections students on its roll, with 127 of them learning at one of New Zealand's three specialist youth units. These students are supervised by Corrections teachers. The remaining 184 students are in the mainstream prison population.

The one-day workshop – the first of its kind – provided a detailed overview of TCS, an opportunity to share issues and

Artwork by a Department of Corrections youth unit student



A quick look at Department of Corrections students:

- Forty percent of Corrections students are in youth units
- The students in youth units are males between 16–19 years old
- Six percent of all Corrections students are female
- Most students are studying a full programme (2–6 hours per day)
- The most popular subjects to study are:
General maths (curriculum level 5 and NCEA Level 1)
Computing (NCEA Level 1)
Practical English (NCEA Level 1)
Keyboard skills (NCEA Level 1)
Foundation skills in maths (curriculum levels 4 and 5 and NCEA Level 1).

work on a collaborative plan for the future. The teachers looked at everything from diagnostic testing and enrolment, to subject choices and working with students who have special needs.

'The day was rewarding for both TCS and Corrections staff. It was an opportunity to put names to faces after years of working together and to work on ways we can all work together better,' says Northern region team leader, Suzanne Hawes.

She says the programme with Corrections has been successful so far. Many of the students are doing well, particularly those studying maths programmes.

'Many of them have never succeeded at school before, but with an individual programme of learning they are able to cope much better with studying,' she says.

'It's great rehabilitation; for some of them it's their first ever success in their life – they taste success and then they want to build on their education.'

Suzanne says that learning with TCS particularly suits the students as the work is flexible and tailored to their needs. If there are any education gaps they can be improved with a programme to suit them.

'The amount of work they put in to their study is unbelievable – you can see they really enjoy it and put the effort in, and the great thing is they're achieving.'

'We've even had prison staff tell us that often the first thing they pack when they are released is the certificates they have achieved.'

Some of the issues TCS and Corrections will be working on in the future include maintaining continuance for students when they leave or transfer from their unit, access to telephones and privacy issues.

Curriculum profile: English

In each edition of *Link Up* we will profile the curriculum areas available to students at TCS. In this edition we spoke to Curriculum Leader English, Richard Robyns.

What subjects are included in the English Curriculum?

- English (from curriculum level 2 to NCEA Level 3)
- Developing literacy (from curriculum levels 2–3)
- Practical English (NCEA Level 1)
- Media studies (NCEA Level 2).

Is English compulsory?

English is compulsory for full-time students up to, and including, Year 11. It is also compulsory for students in either Year 12 or 13 who would like to gain university entrance. English is needed to gain the literacy requirement for reading and writing for entrance to university.

How do students know if English is right for them?

The best way to find out if English is right for them is talk to one of our English teachers. They will find out what each student would like to do in the future and point them in the right direction.

What can students learn at each level?

English at any level provides students with everyday skills like reading, writing and oral comprehension. As students progress through the English curriculum they study anything from traditional poetry and novels to modern movies and media. Students learn to not only identify and describe ideas but critically analyse them. By studying English, students build their communication skills, develop research and presentation skills, improve their language and grammar and learn to analyse and appreciate visual language.

What are some possible careers for students interested in using their English skills?

Possible career options include: writer,

journalist, TV or radio presenter, media officer, researcher, advertising executive, publisher, script writer, actor, tour guide and teacher.

What does media studies involve?

Media studies is an online course that investigates the different types of media around us including film, print, television and the web. It focuses on learning more about what it is that makes up the media and the many ways it operates. Students learn to critically discuss aspects within media texts including the different relationships that exist between the media and its audiences.

Some of the media concepts that students study include the horror genre from Alfred Hitchcock to Wes Craven, the representation of the All Blacks in the media, and the tools magazines use to identify, measure and target their audience.



What are some helpful links?

To make sure you meet the requirements for all NCEA qualifications check out the NZQA's website: www.nzqa.govt.nz and look under 'NCEA'.

www.studyit.org.nz is a good site to help you with NCEA maths, science, and English.

How can students get more information?

Call our toll free phone number 0800 65 99 88 and ask to speak to an English teacher or visit our website

www.correspondence.school.nz

Yoga 4 kidz

Ever thought about recording your own commercially produced CD? That's exactly what 12-year-old TCS student Sundari Zuleta-Connable has just done.

Sundari, who studies at home in Takaka, has just finished recording *Yoga 4 Kidz by Kidz*, an audio CD of guided yoga postures, breathing techniques and relaxation for children.

It took Sundari approximately two months to plan, record and produce the CD, which is now available for sale.

Sundari says she made the CD so she could inspire other kids to give yoga a go and help them receive the benefits of the practice. She says yoga has helped her studies, given her more confidence and is a fun way to stay healthy and balanced.

Sundari recording her CD



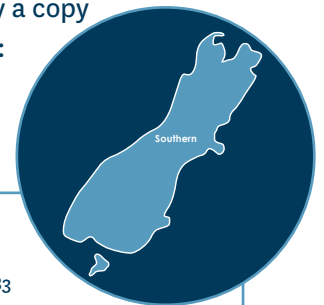
She gathered friends and family to be involved with photography of the CD cover and then worked with a recording artist and graphic designer to produce the CD.

Sundari's teacher, Sandy Dougherty, says a lot of work went into the CD as Sundari was involved in every stage of the process.

'Making the CD has been an enormous boost to her self-esteem; she was able to work on the project from start to finish and then see the amazing results from the effort she put in.'

Sundari was able to fit the project into her school work and develop her English, particularly visual language and performing arts skills.

If you would like to buy a copy of the CD please email: yogashop@anahata-retreat.org.nz



You can contact the Southern office by calling the Kaiarahi, Nicholas Crossan.
Phone: 0800 65 99 88 ext 8583 or 027 237 1847
Email: nicholas.crossan@correspondence.school.nz
Address: Suite 4C, 193 Cashel Street, Christchurch 8011.
 For general enquiries please call 0800 65 99 88.

TCS a hit at Fieldays

TCS staff had the opportunity to speak to more than 700 people about the school and its early childhood service at last month's Mystery Creek Fieldays event near Hamilton.

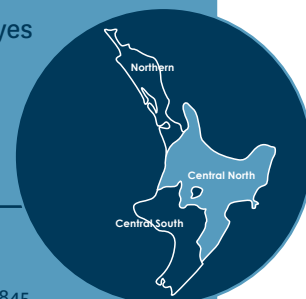
Three staff members, Jenny Hayes, Marilyn Weir and Kay Henderson, attended the event to raise awareness of the school and in particular the early childhood education service among rural families.

'We had lots of positive feedback, TCS is held in high regard in the rural community. People loved the resources we had on display and were interested in finding out

more,' says Early Childhood Manager, Jenny Hayes.

Approximately 100,000 people attended the annual event.

If you would like to find out more about the service call Jenny Hayes on 0800 65 99 88 or check out www.correspondence.school.nz/ech



You can contact the Central North office by calling the Kaiarahi, Peri Ngata.
Phone: 0800 65 99 88 or 027 237 1845
Email: peri.ngata@correspondence.school.nz
Address: 169 London Street, Hamilton 3204.
 For general enquiries please call 0800 65 99 88.

A bang of a time!

Twenty-nine chemistry students got together at the University of Waikato last month to attend TCS's first dedicated event day for chemistry.

The day was a chance for students to gain credits in the practical component of their NCEA Level 2 and 3 courses doing experiments using the university's laboratories. All of the students achieved the practical component, most with 'excellence', and they now have to complete the theory behind the experiment.

'The day was a great success,' says chemistry and science teacher Delene Holm who, along with science teacher, Angela Henderson, organised the day. 'The students really, really enjoyed it and by the end of the day they were buzzing,' she says.

'I think it increased their enthusiasm for the subject, not just because they gained credits but because they also got to meet

other students from around the country.'

'We appreciate the support of the Waikato University staff, Professor Henderson in particular, who showed some interesting and loud demonstrations of chemical reactions,' says Delene.

It's hoped that the day will become a yearly event.

TCS students
Katrina Tangaroa,
Hannah Sparks,
Matthew Jones and
Frikkie Delpert
watch an experiment.



You can contact the Central South office by calling the Kaiarahi, Alan Clark.
Phone: 0800 65 99 88 ext 8583
or 027 448 3842
Email: alan.clark@correspondence.school.nz
Address: 11 Portland Crescent, Thorndon, Wellington 6011.
For general enquiries please call 0800 65 99 88.



Camp of challenges

A group of TCS students faced some of the toughest challenges of their lives at a camp designed to build self-confidence.

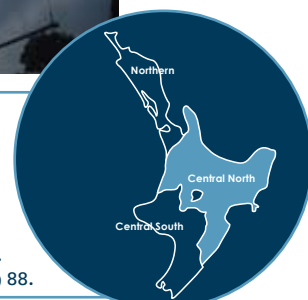
Sixteen Year 10 to 12 students from around the North Island took part in a five-day camp at the Outdoor Pursuits Camp at Tongariro National Park last term. They participated in rock climbing, caving, rope courses, team problem solving activities and an overnight camp.

TCS teacher, Craig Rofe, attended the camp and says it was fantastic to see the students connect as a team as the camp progressed.

'Some of the students come from isolated parts of the country so it was great to see the group come together and work out problems under pressure and under unusual circumstances,' he says.



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Support for supervisors

TCS is offering increased support and advice to supervisors of full-time students.

Supervisor Support Advisor Adele Harris is available by telephone and email to help supervisors of students from early childhood age to Year 13.

Supervisors play an important role in supporting their students' learning and helping them to develop the skills and knowledge to become independent learners.

Supervisors can contact Adele for advice about a range of topics, such as motivating their students, helping them to establish routines, and setting up a suitable space for their students to work.

Adele is also the contact point for enquiries from supervisors studying the Teacher Aide Certificate through the Open Polytechnic.

Adele's role as Supervisor Support Advisor complements the work of learning advisors and subject teachers.

'I will be able to advise and help all supervisors with anything that is not specifically teaching-related,' she says.

Supervisors can contact Adele on 0800 65 99 88 ext 8244 from Monday to Friday during term time or by email: adele.harris@correspondence.school.nz

New Board members appointed

Two new members – Don Blakeney and Jacky Stafford – have been appointed to The Correspondence School Board of Trustees.

Education Minister Anne Tolley appointed the two new Board members at the end of May. Don and Jacky were selected following a nationwide call for nominations, and will sit on the board until September 2012.

'Both appointees have extensive community leadership experience and will bring an extra dimension to the board,' says Mrs Tolley.

Jacky, who is from Waipukurau, is the Education Convenor for Rural Women New

Zealand and is the chairperson of the Rural Education Reference Group. She is also on the College Council of Lindisfarne College in Hastings.

Don, of Tolaga Bay, is the director of Anaura Associates Trust, a not-for-profit community organisation and is a former Chief Executive of the New Zealand Film Commission.

Don's two daughters are full-time TCS students while Jacky's children were enrolled with our early childhood service.

TCS staff member and Central South Regional Manager John Nisbet has been elected to the Board and took up his new role in July.

NCEA payment and registration

Students studying NCEA courses should have received NCEA payment and registration forms by now. Have you completed and sent it back to us with your NCEA payment?

If not, or you need help, please contact either Jennifer Hardiman or Jo Parmenter in the qualifications team, or your learning advisor on 0800 65 99 88.

TCS Charter 2009 consultation

Have your say and help us finalise our Correspondence School Charter for 2009.

Under the Education Act 1989, all schools are required to have a charter. A charter sets out a school's overall mission, stipulates how it will provide services to its students and the contribution it can make to the larger education sector in New Zealand.

We are inviting students, parents, supervisors, caregivers, early childhood services, iwi and government agencies to provide feedback on our draft charter.

If you are interested in providing your comments please send them to:

The Correspondence School
Private Bag 39992
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
Attention: Stephanie Revell,
Charter consultation

The draft Charter will be available on our website www.correspondence.school.nz

For a printed copy, please call us on free phone 0800 65 99 88, ext 8472, or email stephanie.revell@correspondence.school.nz to request one.

Your submission should reach us by Friday 31 July 2009.

We've got mail!

With around 14,000 students on our roll at any one time, TCS receives a lot of mail from students across the country every day.

So when you've finished your school work and are ready to post it back for assessment, remember to turn the

address card around so TCS's address is at the front and to put one of the labels with your name and ID number on your work.

Make sure you include your teacher or learning advisor's name too. This will help to make sure your work gets back to your teacher as soon as possible.

Events

Northern region

Northern Te Ara Hou day

5 August – The Correspondence School, Manukau City

Northern employment workshops

17–19 August – Clubhouse 274, Otara

20–21 August – Whangarei and Kaitiāia

Central North region

Te Ara Hou road show

28 July – Hawke's Bay

29 July – Gisborne

30 July – Tauranga

Central South region

Winter snow camp

31 August – 4 September,

Mangatepopo Camp,

Tongariro National Park

Talk to your learning advisor for details or to find out more about events in your region. You can also check out our website for the latest events.

Peter changes his world

Year 8 TCS student Peter Williams has taken a community problem into his own hands.

The 12-year-old student, who lives near Luganville, Vanuatu, recently noticed that people had no place to sit while they waited at the local truck stop, after their old seat broke and was not replaced.

So, Peter decided to tie this problem into his TCS work and came up with an action

Peter sitting on the finished seat with his brother, sister and some of the men who helped him make it.



plan to build a new bench seat for the local people for his Te Ara Hou unit 'I Can Change My World'.

'The truck stop is right by the road where people sit waiting for trucks to come and take them into town every day. They did have a seat but it broke so people were sitting on the ground,' says Peter.

Peter developed his action plan around the Te Ara Hou criteria and then organised the materials and people to help him complete his project.

Peter's teacher Sandy Dougherty says his idea was brilliant.

'It shows great initiative by bringing together his family and locals in a community project, and all brought about through the ideas and actions of a 12 year old!'

Love lyrics adored

A lifelong passion has turned into an overnight success for Wellington guitarist and TCS music student, Robbie Sowden.

The Year 12 student won the APRA Lyrics Writer's Award at the recent Manawatu Smokefree Rockquest final, where he performed with his band, Scarkiss.

Robbie's song, *A Word Called Love*, was one of more than 100 entries in the category and now goes to the final national event for judging. Scarkiss also won eight hours of recording time at Palmerston North recording studio, The Stomach.

'I was really surprised to win but at the same time really happy,' says Robbie, who spends hours practising with his brother who plays the drums.

Robbie's mother, Marie Sowden, says Robbie has a long-standing passion for lyric writing.

'His passion for performing in a band began when he was at intermediate school, he even wakes in the night with inspiration for a new song!' she says.

Scarkiss also includes Robbie's cousin Daniel Ashcroft, who is a TCS adult student, along with a female bass player and female singer.

Following the Rockquest they were asked to perform at two high schools in Paraparaumu and Palmerston North - their future looks promising!



Robbie (left) and Daniel with the Scarkiss members

Contact us

Got feedback, a story idea or some work to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Email us at media@correspondence.school.nz or send your work to:

Communications Team
The Correspondence School
PO Box 39992
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045