

School wins technology boost

JONATHAN CHILTON-TOWLE
@thestar.co.nz

A team of year 12 and 13 pupils from John McGlashan College won Chorus' Gigaschool video competition competition by showing how "handy" it would be if the school had gigabit-speed internet.

The video showed senior pupils talking about the benefits high speed internet would have for the school in a mock professional presentation style.

The performance included various jokes and puns, including two pupils high-fiving while describing access to better internet as "handy".

The video won the senior category of the competition, netting the school 10 digital cameras and \$2500 to go towards technology.

Year 13 pupil Koon Chakhatrakan (17) led the team that made the video.

"The idea was to show how gigabit internet would benefit the school and the town," he said.

It took two months to get all the writing, shooting, and editing done.

Koon runs his own non-profit film making company Shadowlight Studios and is working on many school-related video projects including a 17-minute short film meant to raise funds.

He got into film-making three years ago after watching *The Hobbit*.

"I'm interested in how the moving image can change people's lives and how they think," said.

John McGlashan head of drama Kimberley Fridd said she was proud of the boys' efforts.

She had asked them to make the



Winning video . . . These John McGlashan College Years 12 and 13 pupils created the winning entry to the Gigatown schools video Competition. They were awarded \$2500 to buy technology for their school.

PHOTO: JONATHAN CHILTON-TOWLE

video as she had been promoting the Gigatown competition at the School.

Having gigabit-speed internet would be great for the school as it was reliant on the internet.

Instead of using pen and paper, every pupil had an iPad or MacBook and technology was used in every lesson.

Every teacher had a website and most assignments were handed in online, she said.

The victory also won Dunedin 300,000 gigapoints, helping the city secure second place in the overall Gigatown standings behind Timaru and ahead of previous leader Wanaka for the first time.