



End of Term 1 Assembly – Rector's Address

Christine Leighton

Friday 5 April 2024



Nau mai, haere mai
Tena Koutou Katoa

Welcome to this final school assembly for Term 1 and a special welcome to whānau and supporters who have joined us this morning. I especially welcome Old Collegian Thomas Russel who is with us this morning to present some rowing medals.

Thomas completed his final year at StAC in 2017, when he was a member of the St Andrew's Coxed Four and Eight who won both the Springbok Shield and the Maadi Cup at the Maadi Secondary Schools Regatta. Thomas started rowing for StAC in 2013 and in his final year was a key member of the 2017 Champion StAC Four and winning Maadi Cup Eight. He has represented New Zealand in rowing winning Silver at Under 19 and Under 23 level, which earned him a place in the New Zealand Elite rowing team at just 19 years of age.

This year Thomas has managed a shoulder injury, which has meant that he has missed Olympic selection, however, he is determined to fulfil his dream of making the Olympics in the future and we wish him well. He is certainly an example of an athlete with talent, determination and resilience. Thomas's continued interest in StAC Rowing and his support of our crews at Maadi has been greatly appreciated by our rowers.

It has been a busy term and I want to thank and congratulate you all on the way you have settled into school routines and learning and for the positive vibe there is around our campus. You all contribute not only in the classroom, but through taking part in the many activities available here at StAC. The particular focus at this morning's assembly is to recognise the success of so many through the Summer Tournament Week, but first a few comments about the importance and lessons learned not only through sport but also cultural activities such as drama, dance, debating, music groups or debating.

At StAC over 90% of you choose to take part in the various co-curricular activities on offer, supported by your teachers, coaches and manager and of course your parents.

We all know that engaging in such activities teaches valuable life lessons and instils important attributes that contribute to personal growth and development. One of the key values of playing sports or performing in groups is the promotion of teamwork and collaboration and through working together towards a common goal you are fostering trust and mutual support while learning the importance of discipline and dedication.



It is a fact that sport is competitive but the best thing about sport is that there is a place for everyone and enjoyment for all. This reflects our StAC value of Inclusivity. Some of you choose to play sport at a highly competitive level while for others the enjoyment comes from playing with your mates with the personal satisfaction of seeing improvement in your personal skills and fitness. Whatever your motivation, you are all developing life-long qualities of respect, fairness, integrity and humility along with the behaviours associated with good sportsmanship, treating opponents, teammates, coaches and officials with respect and courtesy, regardless of the outcome of the game.

Sportsmanship builds character and teaches individuals how to handle adversity, setbacks and challenges with grace and dignity.

This of course is reflected in our recently developed framework, 'Balance is Better at StAC' with our common values of:

- Whanaungatanga – show respect;
- Rangatiratanga – take responsibility;
- Kia Maia – show courage;
- Whai Wāhi – stay engaged.

I thank those who have developed this StAC focus and who promote these values reminding us all of what really matters.

One of our StAC strategic priorities in our Strategic Plan, which focusses on *Building better People for Life*, is to celebrate with our community.

It is right and proper to acknowledge success of our teams and individuals who have recently enjoyed a great feeling of achieving their goal and placing in South Island or National tournaments, competing with the top athletes in New Zealand Secondary Schools.

In acknowledging these students, we are also giving a shout out to every one of you who has also embraced the competition, played for 'The Thistle' with commitment and in good spirit. I hope you will all remember the times you have played sport for StAC. You may forget many of the details of when you won or lost, but you will remember the friendships made, lessons learned and joy from being involved.

That said, to achieve your goal as an individual or team is a wonderful feeling and as a College we are proud of the collective success of our teams who competed in the 2024 Summer Tournament Week. To win a top placing in these competitions is an impressive achievement. Well done to those who won medals and placings and who are being acknowledged this morning. Thank you to those who have supported you to compete at this national level. I know you will have thanked your teachers, coaches, managers and parents in an appropriate way.



St Andrew's College

As we wrap up our summer sport season, we are grateful for the opportunities enjoyed, the competitors we have met, the lessons learned, the goals we have achieved and the fun we have had along the way.

Kia maia, Kia Manuwanui, Kia Kaha
Tena koutou katoa.