



Rector's Prefects' Assembly Address

Christine Leighton

Friday 5 July 2024



Nau mai haere mai
Tena koutou katoa

Today the prefects bring you their greatest group challenge for the year, their much-anticipated annual Prefects' Assembly.

First up this morning I am pleased to award Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards to four Year 13 students. To complete this award before leaving school is an impressive achievement requiring considerable organisation, commitment, and resilience. We will recognise the following students individually. I invite Board member and Old Collegian, Stephanie Bain, to present these prestigious awards.

Issy Bhatia – Issy completed service hours assisting with after school care, as a peer support and community service leader. She has gained skills in car maintenance and defensive driving and competed in club tennis. Issy completed the Peel Forrest and Abel Tasman tracks for her adventurous journeys and undertook a week-long residential leadership course at the Boyle Outdoor Education centre.

Sienna Spark – Sienna completed her service hours as a Peer Support leader and coach of a Year 7 Preparatory School netball team. She has demonstrated significant commitment to Dance specialising in Jazz, along with choreography, which was recognised this year by her appointment as Head of Dance. Sienna completed both the Goats Pass and Casey-Binser tracks for her Adventurous Journeys, and volunteered as a leader at a week-long children's holiday camp.

Iona Lawson – Iona completed her service hours assisting at a St John second-hand store. As Pipe Sergeant, she has demonstrated a loyal and significant commitment to Pipe Band. Iona has competed in club football and participated in surfing. She also completed Goats Pass and Casey-Binser tracks for her Adventurous Journeys and volunteered as a leader at a week-long children's holiday camp.

Meg Simpson – Meg completed her service hours coaching a junior boys' club football team. She is a key member of the Senior Girls' futsal and the Girls' 1st XI football teams. Meg has gained skills in car maintenance and defensive driving and completed the Mount Somers and Abel Tasman tracks for her Adventurous Journey. Meg was a Robbie Burns scholar and a great ambassador of the College during a three-week tour of Scottish schools last year. Meg has managed all this while also fulfilling her leadership role as Head Prefect this year.



Next up we will recognize the incredible achievement of a group of Year 9 students in the Future Problem Solving World Competition held in Indiana, in the USA. This group qualified for this prestigious event as Year 8 students in our Preparatory School and this year as Year 9 students competed in the middle years category. Their performance in the 'Presentation of Action Plan' category placed them third in the world which was an incredible achievement. These students are William Nicolls, Sophie Schouten, Alyssa Geddes, Alexa Collis, and Genevieve Bainbridge-Smith. A sixth team member, Maja Clark, moved to Sydney at the end of last year but was able to join the team in Indiana and competed with the St Andrew's team.

Congratulations also to coach Ms Sonia Lewis who worked so hard to prepare the team and travelled with them to the USA along with Trip Organiser Mrs Kelly McBride.

Since our last full school assembly five weeks ago, you have all been busy with winter sport and a variety of cultural events and competitions. There are only six more school weeks until Winter Tournament Week and teams are well through their competition now. The cultural calendar has also been busy with major events of Rockquest, Chamber Music competition, the Big Sing, Jazzquest, a 48 Hours Film competition and VEX Robotics.

Add to this Ngā Manu Korero and the St Andrew's Festival of the Spoken Word and there has been plenty of opportunity for students to showcase their talent.

Congratulations to 'The Acousticks', '8 Strings 88 Keys' and 'AAA Insurance', who featured in the South Island Finals of the Chamber Music competition. At the Big Sing competition, Stacchorus won The Christchurch Youth Choir Audience Impact award and Staccoro won The Jubilate Singers award for an outstanding recital performance by a Mixed Voice Choir, as well as the Outstanding Performance of a Contemporary Art Composition award.

Congratulations to Metua Cranwell (Year 11) who came third place in the Ngā Manu Korero competition in the Senior Māori Impromptu section speaking in Te Reo Māori.

In recent weeks many of you have taken part in your class speech assessments which culminate in our annual Festival of the Spoken Word. Amanda Watkins (Year 9) and Fletcher Cairns (Year 10) delivered their speeches after winning the Junior finals. Congratulations to the following students who won the different categories: Senior Prepared category – Kiera Faass (Year 12); Senior Impromptu category – Joshua Adams (Year 13); The prize for best speaker of the night and winner of the Mark Ellerm Memorial Cup was Fletcher Cairns (Year 10). These awards will be presented at the Cultural Assembly next term.

Finally, I want to recognise our international students leaving at the end of this term. Thank you for choosing to spend part of your schooling at St Andrew's. Your time spent here has made a valuable contribution to our College value of inclusivity. I hope you have enjoyed the spirit of manaakitanga and take with you good memories of your time with us in Ōtautahi.



Best wishes to Domitille Coron – Year 10 from France; Luiz Romolu-Piteri – Year 10 from Brazil; Lenia Schroter – Year 11 from Germany; Jeremy Kim – Year 12 from South Korea, and Amina Pabst – Year 13 from Germany.

Thank you to all who have extended friendship to our visitors during their time here.

Finally, I wish you all a good and safe term break and good luck to the following teams competing in various venues across the country:

- Clay target team at the North Island Championships in Hamilton;
- Hockey U15 at the Tanner Cup in Hamilton;
- Year 9 and 10 South Island Netball in Christchurch;
- Cyclocross championships in Blenheim.