



Morning Comment

Heads of College, Meg Simpson and Hugo Ranken

Prefects' Investiture and Leadership Assembly, Friday 2 February 2024



Meg: Kia Ora everyone, Holly, Carter, Hugo, and I are privileged to be able to speak at today's assembly and excited to get this year off to a good start. To begin with, it seems only right that we introduce ourselves.

Hugo: Meg Simpson was my first friend! Our parents were in the same antenatal group and Meg and I were supposed to be born on the same day, but like most things to date in our lives, Meg Won! She arrived early and seriously capable. I arrived late and... never mind. Meg is smart, athletic, funny, kind and inclusive. The peak of Meg's achievements was in 2020 when her social basketball team came second in the Christchurch School's Division 3 competition. Some less notable achievements include that Meg gained Excellence Endorsement in Level 2 and 3 in Year 12. She was both Dux and Best Sportswomen of the Preparatory School and in 2022 she travelled to India with the New Zealand Under 17 Women's football team. Its hardly a surprise she was chosen as Head Prefect. If you see her around school don't be shy, she is very approachable and supportive and in my opinion is always good fun.

Meg: Straight out of High School Musical, Hugo Ranken is StAC's very own Troy Bolton. In last year's production, he won the heart of every girl with his charming portrayal of Jimmy Ray. As well as being one of StAC's star performers, Hugo has gained NCEA Level 1 and 2 with Excellence endorsed and is a member of the waterpolo A, cycling, and adventure racing teams. Yes, that's right – he runs and cycles extremely long distances... for fun. If this has



you questioning the sanity of your Head Prefect, well... we might be in for a long year. But in all seriousness, having known Hugo for literally my entire life, I can say without a doubt, that he is one of the most genuine, friendly, inclusive people you'll meet. He's also got a pretty okay sense of humour every now and then as well. So, if you see Hugo around the school, feel free to come up for a chat. If you can't find him, he's the one with the booming laugh, big smile, and bright orange backpack.

Holly Maraki is the epitome of excellence. Representing her region in multiple sports, leading the Māori and Pasifika group for two years, and gaining Excellence Endorsement in both Levels 1 and 2 of NCEA; Holly's resume is nothing short of incredible. However, unfortunately for Holly, she has a notable track record of coming second place. One of the few times Holly has overcome this hurdle of runner up, she didn't even take the field. Let's just say Holly was a little too excited to play in the national touch final, somehow, she couldn't see a rope right in front of her; tripping, falling and dislocating her elbow before the game had even started. Despite this, Holly is an extremely talented sportswomen, being selected into Canterbury netball teams for 4 years and running. Most importantly, Holly has a friendly, hard-working, and helpful personality. She is always keen to talk if you see her around school, just be aware that she's always right.

Carter Rhodes is the ultimate golden retriever of the group; he is energetic, friendly, loyal, and above all, competitive. Beginning at StAC in Year 7, Carter won everyone over with his infectious smile and a whole lot of hair gel, however, it didn't take him long to trade the hair gel in for clippers and, as you can see, his hair has been struggling ever since. As his journey through StAC continued, Carter's world came crashing down when he missed out on a Middle School Leader role. However, this did not stop him from excelling in all other areas of the school. Throughout his time Carter has gained Excellence Endorsement in both Levels 1 and 2 of NCEA, received MVP awards for his basketball and shockingly volleyball teams, and coached the Year 12 social basketball team to victory in 2023. I think it's safe to say he has finally made mummy proud. Much like all golden retrievers, Carter is hard not love. His kind, hard-working, and fun-loving personality is bound to be the highlight of anyone's day. So if you ever see Carter out and about, don't be shy to pop over for a chat. But do be warned, when he gets comfortable, he won't stop talking.



Theme

After much discussion, our theme for this year is 'All for One, One for All'. This encapsulates our goal as a prefect team to continue to foster a proud and inclusive school spirit.

'All for one' stands for all StAC students getting behind the school. We want to encourage participation and support. Get involved in Athletics Day and House events, show up to cheer on sports games and cultural showcases. Even if it's not something that you yourself are involved in, branching out and being supportive can make all the difference. A personal example of this is when people come and support the production; the feeling of having a full audience is truly exciting and all of the compliments you receive afterwards inspire you to continue on with the rest of the shows.

The second part of our theme, 'One for all', stands for StAC being a place for everyone. There are so many different teams, clubs, and opportunities throughout the school, giving every student the chance to pursue their interests and find the place where they belong. Our vision, as the 2024 prefect team, is to continue to build an environment in which even with our differences, we are all one united school community. We think it is crucial that between sports codes, cultural activities, and other groups, there is a sense of unity and respect for one another.

To further implement this year's theme of 'All for One, One for all', we will be posting weekly events, sports matches, and cultural showcases on the 2024 StAC Students Instagram page. This year we challenge you to act upon 'All for one' by getting behind a range of St Andrew's College events to make our college truly 'One for all.' Thank you.