

Academic Awards Assembly – Rector's Address

Christine Leighton

Friday 17 February 2023



Nau mai haere mai
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

Ka tū tahi tatou
i te mātauranga he oranga wairua
kia tū tangata ai tatou.
Tena koutou katoa.

At this morning's special assembly we gather together to learn, nourish and flourish and to celebrate much that has been achieved. However, before we proceed, I ask that together we think of those affected by the devastating flooding, slips and damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. The stories emerging are certainly distressing. As a community, we will be giving support to those in need by way of a collection next Thursday to support the relief efforts in the North Island. I hope that any family and friends you have in the worst affected areas are safe and have the support that they need.

We are grateful to be here together to recognise top achievements of NCEA for 2022 and once again I am delighted to welcome back a large number of our Year 13 leavers to receive their Level 3 Excellence Awards and scholarships.

All award recipients today have much to be proud of as these awards are the result of a great deal of commitment and sustained effort. Welcome to parents and guests this morning who have joined us to celebrate your achievements. Board Chair, Felicity Odlin has joined us this morning to present Board of Governors' scholarships to our Level 3 Excellence and Scholarship students. Welcome to other Board Members, Deputy Chair Nick Letham, Stephanie Bain, Peter Armstrong and Alan Merry.

Last year with all its challenges could have been used as an excuse for work avoidance or underachievement. But the results achieved by so many of you, in NCEA and Scholarship whether an achieved, merit or excellence, show that you drew upon the important qualities of resilience, perseverance and commitment to achieve a result you can be proud of. You all have the privilege of feeling pleased with yourself.

Students receiving an award this morning have pushed through barriers to catch up on missed work due to illness, sit extra exams, study extra-long hours and go beyond doing just enough. Congratulations!

As we acknowledge your academic achievements, I ask that you think of your teachers and parents and the important part they have played for all of you in assisting you to reach your goals.

We will begin today's awards with our Premier Academic awards from NCEA and scholarship 2022.

The first presentations will be the Level 3 awards, most of which will be awarded to leavers of 2022 who have made the effort to come back and join us this morning, before they head off to their various universities or next place of learning. Thank you all for returning for this special assembly as our guests of honour, no longer in school uniform and more than ready to take on exciting new challenges.

Overall, there were a most impressive 76 excellence endorsements at Level 3 and four of these were to Year 12 students.

Presentation of Excellence Endorsements (\$500)

Receiving an Excellence Endorsement and \$500 Board of Governors' Scholarship are the following students who achieved 46 Excellence Credits from a combination of internal and external standards. Board of Governors monetary recognition is given only once, so a few students who received this last year will not do so again.

Ethan Adams	Harry Hooker	Harry O'Brien
Rebecca Brown	Jacob Horrey	Lucy Ojala
Matthew Cartwright	Eva Hyde	Grace Richan
Georgia Chadderton	Charles Keith	Anika Robinson
Jerry Chang	Sam Kinney	Charlotte Roche
Melissa Christie	Harry Lieshout	Patrick Ryan
Blake Cullen	Moana MacDonald	Eloise Sluis
Angie Doig	Brooke Manion	Lynonah Tausa
Benjamin Forgie	Bianca Marshall	Izzy Tuaine
Elli Fraser	Tegan Mathewson	Charli Watts
Gavin Gao	Jasmine McAllister	Estee Wilke
Bella Gibbons	Mei-Lin McClelland	Cindy Xiong
Terry He	Neisha McKenzie	Alex Ying
Pippa Henderson	Sophie McNee	Katie Zhang
Stevi Hokianga	Mya Moore	

Not able to be here this morning are:

Charlotte Brown	Sarah Kennelly	Anja Sander
Rico Gamble	Callum Lockhart	Riley Smith
Rachel Holyoake	Seth Moore	

In addition to the \$500 received for an Excellence Endorsements the following students will receive \$500 from gaining three subject endorsements at level 3.

Sarah Anthony (<i>Both in Year 12 and 13</i>)	Ben McKeown
Skye Atkins	Elliot Menzies
Finn Bradshaw-Waugh	Hugh Nixon
Tom Edwards (<i>Both in Year 12 and 13</i>)	William Reynolds
Jonty Foote	Corin Simcock (<i>Both in Year 12 and 13</i>)
Selena Gan	Jack Stokes
Toby Harvie (<i>Both in Year 12 and 13</i>)	Harry Withers
Thomas Kamo	Luke Zhu (<i>Both in Year 12 and 13</i>)
Grace Lawrence (<i>Both in Year 12 and 13</i>)	

Not able to be here this morning are:

Matthew Butler	Jakarta Klebert	Alys Scott
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The following Year 12 students receive \$1000 for gaining a Level 3 Excellence Endorsement plus 3 subject endorsements at level 3.

Year 12

Gemma Lewis	Lachlan Odlin
Annika MacDonald	Daniel Robertson

Last week we received notification of students who gained NZQA New Zealand scholarship awards from the 2022 Scholarship examinations. This is the most challenging New Zealand Academic award and from St Andrew's College 85 students participated in 24 scholarship assessments.

A remarkable 76 scholarships were gained by 33 students which places them in the top 2 - 3% of New Zealand students in that subject. An Outstanding scholarship places a student in the top 0.3% of New Zealand.

Achieving a scholarship comes with a monetary prize from NZQA, and also recognition from the St Andrew's College Board of Governors. From NZQA, three scholarships earn you \$6000 over three years with extra money attached to premier, outstanding scholar, and top scholar awards.

Of the 76 awards, 12 were outstanding. By subject there were:

1. 8 Digital Technology including 3 Outstanding
2. 8 English including 1 Outstanding
3. 8 Chemistry including 1 Outstanding
4. 8 Statistics including 1 Outstanding
5. 8 Geography
6. 7 Physics
7. 6 Calculus including 2 Outstanding
8. 6 Biology including 1 Outstanding
9. 3 Physical Education
10. 2 Drama including 2 Outstanding
11. 2 History
12. 2 Classics
13. 2 Agriculture and Horticulture
14. 1 outstanding Photography
15. 1 each for Religious Education, Design and Visual Communication, Art Design, Media and Music

We would like to acknowledge these students this morning. We also thank their teachers who put in a great deal of extra time to prepare students for these challenging examinations. The Board of Governors acknowledges a scholarship pass with a monetary award.

The following students gained their scholarship as a Year 11 student.

Christine Jeon – Music

Meg Simpson – Physical Education

The following students gained their scholarships as Year 12 students.

Annika MacDonald	Chemistry, Physics and Statistics
Gemma Lewis	Chemistry and Statistics (Also Statistics in Year 11 – 2021)
Lachlan Odlin	Chemistry and History (Also History in Year 11 – 2021)
Daniel Robertson	Physics
William Russell	Geography

We will now present the 26 Year 13 leavers with their scholarship awards.

Those not able to be here this morning are:

Rachel Holyoake	English
Jakarta Klebert	Physical Education
Anja Sander	Biology

Callum Lockhart	Technology, Geography, Physics, Statistics, (Also Geography in Year 12 – 2021)
Ethan Adams	Technology (Outstanding)
Finn Bradshaw-Waugh	Biology
Jerry Chang	Calculus
Jonty Foote	Biology
Elly Fraser	Agriculture and Horticulture
Harry Hooker	Geography
Jacob Horrey	Design and Visual Communication
Charlie Keith	Technology
Moana Macdonald	Art and Design
Ben McKeown	Technology
Thomas Rae	Photography (Outstanding)
Ashton Threadwell	Technology

The final awards are presented to a group of four students who will be no strangers to you.

They were recipients of the Premier Academic Awards at last year's Prizegiving – Proxime Accessit, Tom Edwards and Dux, Toby Harvie, Luke Zhu and Corin Simcock.

Remarkably all have achieved exceptional results in their Scholarship exams, achieving an incredible 29 scholarships between them.

Toby Harvie achieved seven scholarships in Digital Technology, Geography, Chemistry, Physics, English and Statistics with an Outstanding in Calculus. Toby also achieved an Outstanding Scholar Award which places him in the top 62 scholars across New Zealand and brings a \$15,000 recognition. Congratulations Toby. *(Also Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, Technology and Geography in Year 12 – 2021)*

Luke Zhu achieved eight scholarships in Geography, Chemistry, Physics, English, Statistics, Calculus, Agriculture and Horticulture, with an Outstanding in Biology.

Luke also achieved an Outstanding Scholar Award which places him in the top 62 scholars across New Zealand and brings a \$15,000 recognition. *(Also Chemistry, Physics and Geography in Year 12 – 2021)*

Tom Edwards achieved seven scholarships in Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Classics, Calculus with two Outstanding in Digital Technology and Statistics. Tom also achieved an Outstanding Scholar Award with a \$15,000 recognition. But wait there's more. Tom also achieved a Top Subject Scholar Award which earns him a further \$6000 recognition for top mark in New Zealand in Digital Technology. He will be invited to Wellington to be presented

with his Top Subject Scholar Award at a special ceremony. *(Also Physics and Geography in Year 12 – 2021)*

This now brings us to Corin Simcock. Corin also achieved seven scholarships: Geography, Physics, Statistics and Biology and an impressive three at the Outstanding level in Digital Technology, Chemistry and Calculus. *(Also Chemistry, Physics, Calculus and Geography in Year 12 – 2021)*

This incredible exam performance places Corin as one of the top 11 NZQA Scholars in New Zealand and has earned him a most prestigious Premier Award.

With this comes a \$30,000 recognition to assist with university studies and an invitation to be presented with the Premier Award from the Prime Minister in Wellington. St Andrew's College has had three Premier Award winners in the last 12 years, Sarah Wright in 2011, Russell Boey in 2018 and now Corin in 2022.

For this incredible achievement I am delighted to also present Corin with a Rector's Medal, the highest recognition at St Andrew's College for an outstanding achievement.

I believe today we have all witnessed something very special. Every year at StAC we see some students who achieve remarkable success in academic, sporting and cultural endeavour. We are inspired by them, not only what they achieve but the way they go about getting there.

Toby, Luke, Tom and Corin, and all the other scholarship recipients have thrived on the challenges they have been offered at St Andrew's. They have grasped opportunities and pursued not only academic success, but character and skill development through sport, culture, leadership and service.

These four boys are great mates. They have collaborated in their studies and supported each other and in this way, they have also thrived on the competitive spirit. It is a fine example of how we all can do our best when we work together in the pursuit of excellence.

Well done to all our Leavers of 2022. We wish you well as you head off to university and look forward to hearing of your further successes. Thank you for joining us today.

No reira, Tena Koutou Katoa.