



St Andrew's College

Founders' Day Assembly – Rector's Farewell to Head of Middle School, Mikae Tuu'u

Rector, Christine Leighton

Friday 17 March 2023



Thank You Mikae Tuu'u and Farewell

Thank you Mr Tuu'u for sharing your personal reflections on St Andrew's College. I suspect that many hearing your address today will remember your words.

I wish that now I could sit down, and rest assured in the knowledge that Mr Tuu'u would be here in the coming months and for many years to come.

But unfortunately, that is not our reality as Mr Tuu'u will be leaving St Andrew's at the end of March to take up a position as South Island Manager overseeing student re-engagement through Te Kura the correspondence school. This is an exciting new leadership

challenge for Mr Tuu'u and it is my sad but privileged task to acknowledge his enormous contribution to our College over the last seven years.

Mr Tuu'u loves teaching, mostly either Physical Education or Mathematics. At St Andrew's he has also taught Te Waka and introduced what is now known as the Athlete Development Programme to our Curriculum. But it is in his leadership role as Head of Middle School that he leaves a significant mark on hundreds of students. With the ability to engage with students, reason with parents and manage and inspire staff, Mikae has juggled the many roles required of his position. He has been an advocate for students, responsible for their pastoral care, at the same time passionate about making St Andrew's College a positive learning environment for all. He has spent countless hours getting to know students as individuals, recognizing the talents or passions of each one of you. A fierce protector of St Andrew's standards, he is regularly out and about on campus, arranging duty teams, or just having a yarn!

Mr Tuu'u, along with Mr Westrupp, founded our Māori Pasifika group around five years ago, a place of connection and belonging. Through his leadership our College value of Inclusivity has become a part of who we are.

Mr Tuu'u lives the vision of the College: "Together, building better people for life". He is a passionate dedicated volleyball coach and manager, talented rugby coach, side-line supporter, choir, music and theatre cheerleader and positive role model. I asked some students how they would describe Mr Tuu'u and was not surprised to hear the students use the following words:

- Warm and welcoming;
- Passionate and positive;
- Knows everyone and everything – he is everywhere!;
- Enthusiastic and energetic;
- Leads by example – gets involved – lifts the energy;

- Genuine – great listener, supportive and kind;
- Inspirational, fair, a great role model;
- In tricky situations he knows what to do;
- Encourages a balance of fun and respect;
- A keeper of StAC values and traditions, proud Old Collegian.

Mikae, you are the epitome of a servant leader, always putting the needs of others before your own. You are a truly decent person who makes those you connect with feel seen and valued.

Thank you for making the Middle School a good place to be and for leaving St Andrew's in such a great heart.

You will be missed!