



Academic Awards Assembly – Rector's Address

Christine Leighton

Friday 16 February 2024



Nau mai haere mai
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

Ka tū tahi tatou
i te mātauranga he ora 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.

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 assist with presentations. Board members Alan Merry and Stephanie Bain have also joined us and Lachie Odlin, Deputy Head Boy, has returned as our special guest speaker for later in the assembly.

We are grateful to be here together able to recognise top achievements of NCEA for 2023 and once again I am delighted to welcome back a number of our Year 13 Leavers to receive their Level 3 Excellence Awards and scholarships.

But before we acknowledge these academic awards we must celebrate two most outstanding sporting achievements from the end of last year after school had finished.

Jonah Cropp

Jonah Cropp represented St Andrew's College at the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics in open 3KM walk at the end of last year. Jonah has excelled in this event held in Christchurch with two gold medals, one as a Year 12 and then last year as a Year 13 competitor. In recent weeks he has broken both the New Zealand U19 and U20 3K record that has stood for over 30 years. Jonah has been named in the New Zealand team for the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships in Turkey in April. Congratulations Jonah and good luck for your exciting time ahead.

Mixed Touch

Next is the incredible success of our Mixed touch team who competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools tournament in Rotorua last December. This title was last held by St Andrew's in 2012 when Richie Mo'unga was in Year 13. Competing against 40 other teams, St Andrew's was unbeaten in pool play, making the final against Manukura School. Down at half time, they came back in the second half to win 8–5, and secure the gold medal.



Team Captains Macklan Robertson (Year 12) and Sienna Stowers-Smith (Year 13) were both recognised as Most Valuable Players of the tournament. A huge congratulations to parent coach Paul Harris, and Teacher Alison Lomax as manager. Thank you for your amazing encouragement and support of the team and Paul for your many hours of coaching and skill development.

Mike Johnston

A final special sporting achievement is regarding Mr Mike Johnston, custodian and long-time cricket coach including many years with the 1st XI. Scrumpt left yesterday to compete in the International Masters Cricket (Over-60s) World Cup in Chennai India as a member of the New Zealand team. We all know how much Scrumpt loves cricket and he was very proud to inform me that in a recent Canterbury game against Central Districts, Old Collegians Henry Nicholls (OC 2009) and Leo Carter (OC 2012) both scored over 100 plus Zak Foulkes (OC 2020) took three wickets. We do follow the success of our Old Collegians with much interest.

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.

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, knowing you have gone beyond just doing enough. 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.

Overall there were an impressive 59 excellence endorsements at level 3 and 4 of these were to Year 12 students.

Last week we received notification of students who gained NZQA New Zealand scholarship awards from the 2023 scholarship examinations. This is the most challenging New Zealand Academic award and from StAC 121 students participated in 26 scholarship exams.

A remarkable 64 scholarships were gained by 34 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 \$6,000 over three years with extra money attached to premier, outstanding scholar, and top scholar awards.



St Andrew's College

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.

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

Well done to all our Leavers of 2023. 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.