



Cultural Captains' Address

Cultural Assembly – Friday 15 August 2025



Cultural Captain, Miu Kim:

Stepping out of your comfort zone in life isn't like a movie. If you don't already know, in the *Teen Beach* movie, two surfers fall into a 1960s musical where people randomly burst into impeccable dance routines, all problems are solved in song, and it's always summer. Sounds perfect right?

But it's not; there's no script for the teens that fall into the movie, there's no clear exit, and people keep singing; they're washed up into an unfamiliar environment where they have to figure things out little by little. Whether you've just come into St Andrew's College or you're about to leave to the new environment of

university, the *Teen Beach* movie shows us that life isn't like a musical. It's weird, messy and doesn't follow a script.

That's what I'm here to tell you today. That your life will not go to plan, or you might not even have a plan at all, and that's ok. Stepping out of your comfort zone, dabbling in all the opportunities presented to you is what's most important.

Over my 13 years of schooling I have done exactly that. Although most people know me as a Music kid or smart kid, once upon a time, Miu Kim played water polo. Mind you it was only for a term – I was dedicated as anything. When I first went into water polo, I didn't know the rules, I didn't have contact lenses, and, with no hearing in one ear I had no idea where noises were coming from. But little Miu persevered and the lowkey traumatic experience became a learning opportunity for me. It taught me to never trust a sport where the rules are unclear and drowning is just a part of the vibe. But, it also taught me bravery and resilience. Both of these skills have served me immensely, as although you need bravery to perform as a musician, bravery is a part of daily life, bravery is what is allowing me to stand in front of all of you for this speech.

Just as the main characters of the *Teen Beach* movie, step out of their comfort zones literally, I want to challenge each of you to try something new. Whether today or next week, do one thing that scares you. It doesn't have to be dramatic. You don't need to enter an alternate universe or join water polo blind and deaf. Even something like trying a new sport, instrument, joining production or even just singing in assembly – take those opportunities.

Because the truth is, life doesn't hand you a script. If it did it'd probably be ChatGPT'd anyways. So don't wait for the perfect conditions, just do it. You're not meant to have it all figured out right now. You're meant to explore, try, grow get lost, and gain weird lore.

That's what makes your story yours. So let your life be a little unscripted. Because even though it's not a musical, you're still the main character.



Cultural Captain, Mookee (Mookmanee) Lee:



When we talk about culture, people often think about big shows, performances, and perfectly polished acts. But to me, culture is something more alive; it's messy and unpredictable. It's what we create when we share our talents, passions, and creativity.

And what I've learned is that culture isn't just about performing. It's about connection. It's about turning hours of practice into something that speaks to people. Even when things go wrong.

Ever since I was little, I've been super passionate about anything cultural. I was the kind of kid who turned the living room into a stage, who made up dances no one asked for, and who believed a hairbrush was a perfectly acceptable microphone. I picked up dance lessons at the age of four, started learning my first instruments in Year 3, and saw my first musical, Avenue Q, at the age of six. For those who know, you know it's kind of a questionable musical for a six-year-old to be watching, but from that moment on, I was hooked.

I've been so lucky to continue my passion and be a part of a bunch of cultural groups here. choirs, orchestras, jazz, rock band, productions, theatresports, Film and Broadcasting Academy (FABA), Technical Media crew, and learning multiple instruments. At this point, my lunch breaks don't exist, I'm slightly sleep deprived, and my calendar needs therapy. But honestly, I wouldn't trade it for anything.

But you know what I've realised? Culture is the only place in school where it's totally normal to burst into song and say things like "sorry I can't, I have band today" and everyone understands.

That's the beauty of it. It's where you can scream-sing your heart out, hit the wrong note in jazz and call it "improvisation", and spend three hours setting up tech and no one will notice until it goes wrong, but somehow you still love it. Even when it's exhausting, when things break, people forget their lines, or nothing goes to plan, culture still ends up being the best part of my school life. Because it brings people together and gives us something to be proud of.

Being part of culture means being surrounded by people who are passionate, a little dramatic, and always willing to help each other out. Whether you're on stage, backstage, or just hanging out in the Music block eating snacks. It isn't about being perfect. It's about showing up, being a bit weird, making friends who are also a bit weird, and creating something cool together.

Avenue Q says, "Except for death and taxes, everything in life is only for now."

So, if you've ever wanted to try something, do it now. Join the choir, the band, the Media crew, the dance, the drama, the whatever. Because in culture, there's always room for one more chaotic, passionate, slightly sleep-deprived person just like us.