

End of Term 1 Assembly – Rector's Address

Mark Wilson

Friday 4 April 2025



Tēnā koutou katoa – Good morning everyone.

Congratulations to all of you who have been acknowledged today for your successes during Tournament Week and the summer sports season. I also want to extend my congratulations to everyone who participated with such positivity and enthusiasm. I am always proud of the way you conduct yourselves both on and off the field, even when things don't go your way. Your ability to bounce back after disappointment is a strength that will serve you well in the future.

One of the perks of my job is supporting our sports teams at various venues around the country and here in Christchurch. It is always a pleasure to see students at their best, taking part in activities they love.

I am often asked why we encourage students to participate in co-curricular activities. By now, I thought the benefits would be self-evident. Studies have shown that co-curricular activities enrich the educational journey by nurturing the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. These activities not only keep you physically active but also shape your character, foster connections, and contribute to overall well-being. Co-curricular participation complements academic learning, making education more fulfilling and impactful.

Providing these opportunities for our students requires a dedicated team working together. Thank you to the coaches and managers for your commitment and effort, ensuring the well-being of the players and bringing our sports philosophy of 'balance is better' to life.

Thank you, parents, for always showing up in large numbers to support your children. They may not appreciate it now, but they will in the future. Thank you for supporting your child in such a positive and encouraging manner, allowing them to express themselves on the field without judgment.

Training for the winter season is already well underway. Keep making the most of your opportunities and remember, it is not how you win, but how you pick yourself up after disappointment that defines your character.

Finally, I wish the best of luck to all of you representing the College and our region, both here in New Zealand and overseas. Play well, play fair, and make us proud.

I want to conclude with the following whakatauki, as I believe it sums up the essence of participating in a team:

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini" – Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many.