

Kia ora koutou and welcome to 2025. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday and are looking forward to this year.

It is hard to express just how honored I am to have been selected as your head-boy for 2025. The responsibility that comes with the role is not something that I take lightly, and I am fully committed to doing my absolute best in service of all of you. St. Peter's College means a great deal to me. Over the last 6 years, this school has not only been the place where I have learned, but where I have grown, made lasting friendships, and explored many of the opportunities on offer. So, I am excited for the opportunity to be able to give back to this place that has done so much for me and shaped so much of who I am today.

This year, I am proud to be working alongside my wonderful team of deputies - Jacob Toa, Gus Dallow, and Tane Wikaire - and the Prefect team. Together we have the goal of leading the college to the best of our ability, putting into action our school's moto - To Love and To Serve - and its values. Our vision this year is to work towards developing connections within the college, fostering a strong sense of belonging for all students. We want all of you to be proud to be St. Peter's men, who are actively involved and contributing to the school and its community.

2024 was yet another important year in the growth of the college. On the sporting front, our First XV narrowly missed out on a semi-final berth in the 1A competition, the U18 coxed 4 won the first senior gold medal in rowing in SPC history at the Maadi Cup Regatta, and a number of boys represented their country on the international stage. Success at the KBB music festival continued for another year with all three senior groups being awarded Gold. At Polyfest, the hard work and dedication of the Kapa Haka, Samoan, and Tongan Groups resulted in impressive achievement in their respective categories. While the school's production in collaboration with Marist College, 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert', was a great success. Academically, it was another positive year, with the successes of last year's senior students to be recognized at the upcoming Scholars Assembly.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work of you, the student body, in pursuing excellence while displaying a strong sense of heart and pride in the school, as is characteristic of St. Peter's men. That being said, we also must always recognize our parents, staff members, and the wider community. Without whose support, time, and commitment, none of our success would be possible.

Last year has provided us with an example and a foundation that we can build upon for 2025, with the goal of making it another incredibly successful year across all areas of the college. I strongly encourage each of you to take advantage of the plethora of opportunities and activities that the school offers, which should not be taken for granted. Whether you are pursuing an existing interest or discovering a new one, I firmly believe it is always better to try something new and see if it is for you, rather than regretting a missed opportunity and never knowing. With so many extra-curricular activities available, there is, without a doubt, a place for everyone and every interest within St. Peter's.

Even so, we must always remember to balance our commitments outside of the classroom with our academics. As academic excellence should always be our primary focus, that is,

working hard and aiming to achieve to the best of our ability. Extra-curriculars should never be seen as an excuse for neglecting our studies. Instead, I encourage you to view it as a challenge: to maintain excellence and to hold yourself to the high standards of a St. Peter's Man across different areas of college life.

Equally important to the deputy team and I is the concept of brotherhood. It is a core aspect of what creates the unique culture that separates us from other schools, creating connections between us that endure long after we graduate. We are all responsible for nurturing and preserving the brotherhood of college through the ways we interact with each other, whether it be with a mate or someone you hardly know. Strive to be kind, positive, and supportive. When we all commit to truly exemplifying the concept of brotherhood, that is when it will make the greatest impact. Creating a healthy school environment and culture that facilitates growth, learning, and belonging.

Additionally, the Prefect team this year and myself will have the goal of being approachable, encouraging open communication with the student body. Please do not hesitate to come and talk to any of us, because we are all still just students and we are always willing to listen to you and your ideas.

Finally, as we all settle back into school for 2025, I encourage you all to approach each challenge with pride and passion. Whether it be in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, or wherever you represent yourself and the school, accept success with humility and treat failure as an opportunity to learn and improve. I am eager to see what we as a college can achieve this year. I wish you all the best of luck, have a fulfilling year, and may God bless you all.

Thank you.

Riley Watson
Head Boy 2025