



St Peter's College

Auckland

2026 Opening Speech

Kia Ora boys and welcome to 2026. I hope you have all enjoyed your break and are ready for a big year this year.

I have the privilege to have been selected as your head boy for 2026, and I am extremely excited and honoured to be serving you this year. Also representing you will be my outstanding deputies Noah Lazaryes, Mateo Baice, and Aiden Park, as well as the prefect team. These are roles we do not take lightly, and we will aim to give our 100% effort throughout the year. It is our vision this year to deepen the pride in our college and strengthen the brotherhood. I encourage each and every one of you to reflect on what part you can play in aiding us to achieve this throughout the year and help make St Peter's the best version of itself that it can be.

2025 was yet another extremely successful year for the college. Our First XI football team and First V basketball teams both placed in their highest ever position, and we had six boys represent New Zealand in their respective sports. In music, our Senior concert band, big band, and combined symphony orchestra all received gold medals at the KBB festival. Our production 'Sister Act' was a resounding success, and our Legal mooting team narrowly missed out on being awarded Auckland champions. Our cultural groups also showcased their unmatched dedication and talent at Polyfest. Academically, our boys flourished in 2025, gaining impressive results and no doubt a number of scholarships, representing the amount of hard work and dedication they put in throughout the year.

As a prefect team this year, we aim to be approachable to all year levels and build strong connections. I strongly encourage you to come and have a chat with us, ask questions, share your ideas, or just get to know your older brothers. I believe it is all of our responsibility to strengthen the brotherhood, so I urge you no matter what year level you are, whether you are a prefect or not, to build the environment in our college we can all be proud of. The brotherhood is what differentiates St Peter's from other schools, and it is an integral part of our school culture, so it is vitally important to enhance it and preserve it for future St Peter's men.

At St Peter's we are so lucky to have the many opportunities provided to us by the school and the teaching staff. I challenge you to get involved in as many aspects of school life as possible, try new things, and get outside of your comfort zone. The opportunities and activities should not be taken for granted, so enjoy them to the

fullest this year and strive to take part in school life as much as possible.

In saying this, the primary goal of being a student is to learn and achieve academically. Challenge yourselves to find the balance between succeeding academically and taking part in extracurricular activities, which will result in an extremely enjoyable and fulfilling year and being well rounded St Peter's men.

To our year 7's, make the most of your time here, many of the friendships you make will be for life, and the next 7 years are going to go extremely quickly.

To our year 13's, enjoy your final year, stay connected to the school, and aim to be the role models that all of us can follow in how St Peter's men live their lives.

Finally, I encourage you to take on every challenge you encounter this year with confidence as a St Peter's man, knowing that you've got 1300 brothers standing beside you. I'm excited to see what we can achieve together this year.

I wish everyone the best of luck, get amongst everything and have a great year, and as always, Up the Saints.

Thank you

Liam Ireland
Head Boy 2026