



# Tāmaki College

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## EAST AUCKLAND

**Alexia Ramos 2021 Dux of Tamaki College**



On behalf of the Filipino students at Tamaki College and the Filipino communities here in Auckland I would like to extend our warm and heartfelt congratulations to Alexia ... Tamaki College Dux 2021!

Well done Alexia, your hard work and perseverance have paid off. You make us all very proud indeed!

*Gene Smallwood*

## The Head Girl's Valedictory Speech

Before I begin, I would like to give all Glory back to our Heavenly Father for his unconditional love and guidance upon us all throughout this year. Greetings to you all, students and staff members of Tamaki College, SLT and family members who may be tuning in from home.

My name is Taunese Salataima Leitufia and I am very honoured to be the Head Girl of Tamaki College for 2021. I'd like to thank our school, staff, the SLT members and Mrs Pamaka for entrusting me with this role. I am truly privileged and blessed to have this opportunity to serve our school.

We can all agree that this year hasn't been easy for us all. We've spent upto 2 months within our homes doing online schooling and abiding to the given level restrictions. I can speak for most students and say that we have found ourselves with little to no motivation to keep striving. But have you questioned why you are still here? What got you to the end of the year?

It has taken a lot of time for me to write a speech that not only describes my journey as Head Girl, but also our journey as a school through 2021. With so many reflections, I have finally come to my theme of 'Knowing Your Purpose'. With purpose, you have reason, with reason you have motivation and with motivation, you will succeed.

In the past 5 years, my purpose as a daughter, leader, and a student is to make my family proud and finish school strong. Tamaki College has been my home for 5 years. A home that has witnessed my best as well as my worst. Going to school everyday and facing many challenges became piled obstacles that often took away my sense of striving. Challenges such as understanding the different concepts of learning, multiple responsibilities, expectations and yes, Covid-19.

However, I did not let these obstacles take over my plans or my purpose. Why? Because I had reason to not give in. These reasons included my teachers who were continuously working behind the scenes to provide the best learning environment for me, my friends who gave as much energy to show me I could do it, and my family who has invested endless time, love, and support in my schooling.

These were enough reasons I needed to be able to get back on my feet, back on track and strive with motivation. I have to admit that my journey towards achieving my purpose hasn't always been easy because I often found myself back at my lowest with limited thoughts of achievement. But it would take time to be reminded by these reasons to regain motivation.

Here I am on the last day ready to proudly claim that I have achieved my full purpose of making my family proud and finishing school strong. But that is only a glimpse of my journey.

As for Tamaki College, we have come to the end of the year, and despite the complications that Covid brought, we were able to push through it all. And that is because you as individuals had a purpose you moved by. A purpose I don't know of nor your teachers but yourself only. You have given enough reason to continue your online classes and return back to school with risks taken. You have gained motivation to chase your credits and complete assessments.

And here we are on our last day celebrating our success as a school. You made it to the end of 2021 and it is because with your purpose, you had a reason, with reason you gained motivation and with motivation, you have succeeded. There will be times where you will soon find yourself overwhelmed with challenges, however, my last message for you is to keep striving and know your purpose. I wish you all the best for the upcoming years of your schooling.

To the teachers of Tamaki College, thank you so much for everything that you have done for the Class of 2021. No words can express our gratitude we have for you. Your teachings will be our gift we will share with the world. We wish you all the very best for the upcoming years of your career.

To my fellow year 13 students, we have come to the end of our time at Tamaki College. Time has always been generous to us as we shared tears, laughter and so much more. But there is always time for when things must come to an end for new beginnings. We have walked together for 5 years and I am certain that the world is not ready for the talent you hold.

I am truly blessed to have shared this journey alongside a year group who never failed to bring the hype and life. I wish you all the very best as you embark on your new journey.

Thank you all for your time.

Head Girl 2021 signing out -

Fa'afetai lava



# The Head Boy's Valedictory Speech

Malo e lelei,ko oku hingoa ko Talia'uli Fokolo'oe'hau Fosita.

First and foremost I'd like to thank our Heavenly Father for blessing me with this opportunity to serve as the Head Boy at Tamaki College for 2021. I'd also like to thank my parents and family for pushing me every morning to strive so I can be the best version of myself, also making me realise how much potential I have everyday.

Before I begin, I would like to say it has been a ride with the challenges, ups and downs and also Covid 19. As a student of Tamaki College, a leader and also a family member, my everyday goal was to make me and my family be the proudest and happiest people.

In Year 9 I always thought college was hard and it would be a long way to Year 13, but it just felt like yesterday that I was still a freshman, learning new things and applying it to my daily life, in and outside of these gates. Sitting in the Auditorium Mr Tu'uga Stevenson once said **"Your time will come to an end before you know it, 5 years will pass by like that"**, I guess it's true what he said. Coming from different primary schools with local friends was cool but, we had all walked into a new journey, new faces, new environment and a new self.

In 2017 we went from being in one class a day to being in six different classes a day, thankfully we had our timetable that got us through our college years.

Sitting in Careers making a 10 Year Plan Board who would have thought of everything we have achieved during our time at school. We have shared many echoes in our long journey of college years like all the Year 9 activities, Year 9 Camp, Year 10 High Ropes, Manaikalani, passing our NCEA Level 1 (and then 2) Polyfest, Language weeks, the Ball, Junior Social (or was that the Year 13 Social!), playing Rugby on the field every lunch even when we hid it from the teachers that were on duty, getting a 5 dollar RISE voucher to use at the Tuck Shop for doing well in your assessments, Handball in the Quad, playing Touch and memories of every movement that was made.

Our five years told a marvelous story, including the worst moments and the down moments, those moments have built us and show what we are today. I'm so happy and grateful for how we have come as a whole. I hope my speech reaches those who were thinking of dropping out because of various personal circumstances. Instead you are a Graduate of 2021, you've made it, you've shown what you can really be and how much potential you have in yourself for being strong. I want you to carry that with you along your new path of existence. Woow our last year as college students has been a hectic ride and a lot was taken on.

To the students of Tamaki College, your learning starts when you are listening to your parents at home, that will show how you really are everywhere else. I want you to take in every opportunity you are given, because time never gets taken back. Year 9 listen with your heart in every choice you make, Year 10 prepare for the new version of yourself, Year 11 continue being your best selves, Year 12 keep going, keep pushing even when there's not a limit to stop, and to my Year 13s here we are finish our duties of setting example for the next generation, Sometimes we thought we would never make it, but go out there tell them the story of what you are, and show what Tamaki RISE Values built you, but remember if you are yourself you are capable of more. I am very grateful to have you all as peers in my life, I'm grateful for laughter, pain, fun times and also unbreakable memories.

I would like to give thanks to our wonderful Principal Soana Pamaka, for giving me the chance to perform duties for the school. I'd like to say thank you to Miss Corray for being helpful with the new House system and also having faith in my work that goes unnoticed. To my teachers, thank you for being consistent and supportive throughout my 5 awesome years of college, last but certainly not least I'd like to thank my friends that have been there for me since the get go, making me feel more confident than I ever did when I walked through those gates as a fresh Year 9. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to the college, thank you for building RISE Values within me, respect, integrity, success and responsibility. Thank you for being my go to home, even when I was at my lowest thinking I couldn't finish school, thank you for being a Tamaki family. Kia kaha, Kia toa.

Tau'Ange ke faitapuekina moutolu he 'eiki And stay vakafefekz.

Yours truly  
Head Boy of Tamaki College  
Talia'uli Fokololo'oe hau Fosita  
Signing out....



## Message from our Deputy Head Girl

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you but plans to give you hope and a future” Jeremiah 29:11

Congratulations Class of 2021 on getting through this hectic year. It’s been a journey that we thought would never come to an end, but we did it and I couldn’t be more proud of each and every one of you!

This year we have lost, won, failed, cried, laughed, and loved, but we didn’t fold and although most of our last days have been in lockdown, it’s been a privilege to learn, work and succeed alongside some amazing people. Our 13 years of schooling may have come to an end but the future is yet to come. Praying for God’s guidance and protection upon you all, as you embark on a new journey and may all your goals, dreams, and aspirations come true, in Jesus name!

Despite the circumstances we have had to face, I would not do it with any other group. Like the good old Samoan proverb says “E lele le toloa ae ma’au i le auvai”, meaning the Toloa bird flies far, but will return to the water. We may go near or far but we will always know that this place was home!

Congratulations once again Class of 2021!!

Love you guys, May Sinafea.



## Message from our Deputy Head Boy

There's a saying I commit myself to and that is "once you become comfortable with your situation, you're losing."

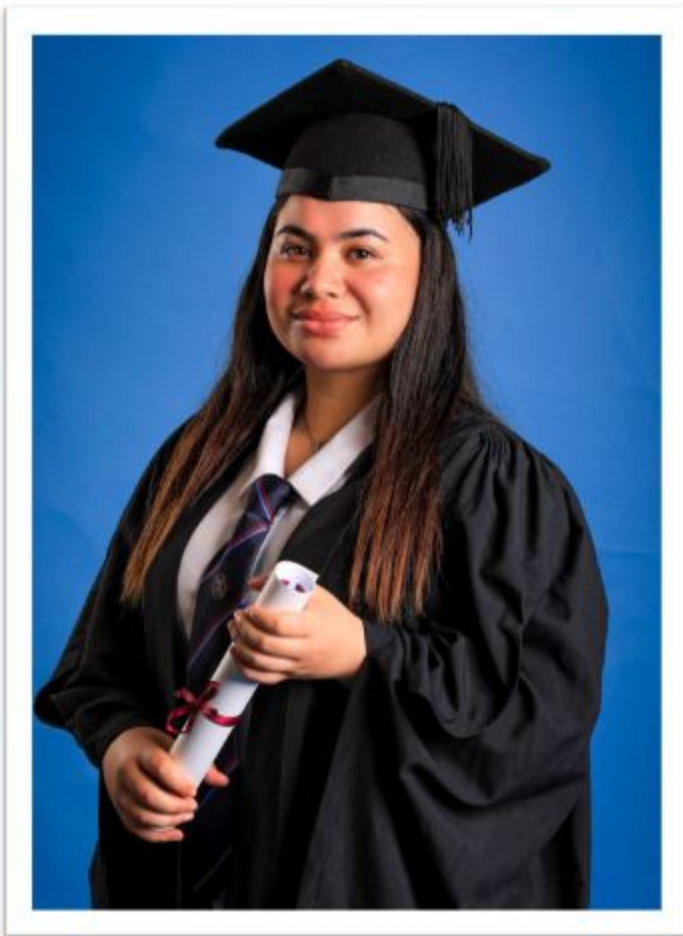
Always be willing to learn and know that failing is just a step closer to you succeeding.

To the upcoming leaders and to the students, remember to stay humbled, be yourself and believe in yourself. Don't seek for others approval, be who you want to be, trust in the process and all will fall into place.

For the Class of 2021, I'm proud of how far we've all come. Proud of everyone and I see all your hard work. It's all about to pay off. We started off naughty and ended up wise and full of knowledge. I hope to see you winning in life.

Ofas to my Vakas Fam, your Deputy Head Boy Taki Tukuafu.





2021 Proxime Accessit Jolise Collins Ward and Rothery Scholarship Winner Soana Telefoni.



2021 Sportswoman of the Year Fusi Fa'avae and Sportsman of the Year Faamanu Faamita.

