



ABOVE
Tiana and Alayna
Willis-Baker.

A small group of Endeavour Scholarship students share their thoughts on what the Scholarship Programme means to the St Cuthbert's Community.

Florida Mataio sees the scholarship programme as an opportunity to bring everyone together to celebrate the range of cultures that are represented at St Cuthbert's, which is reflective of the broader community of Auckland and a diverse New Zealand.

Sapphire Tutini's dad is Maori and her mum is from the Cook Islands, and she is proud to share her culture and bring it alive. Together with her fellow Endeavour students, Sapphire participates in

Pofiafia Night, a night on the College calendar that brings our ten cultural groups together to perform traditional dance in front of a welcoming audience.

The cultural groups represented at Pofiafia Night this year included Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Chinese, Korean, Tibetan, Mongolian, Thai, Vietnamese and Indian. Pofiafia stems from the word 'fiafia' which means 'celebration', 'get together' or 'happy'.

As a valuable opportunity

to encourage connections within the Maori and Pacific community at St Cuthbert's, the Endeavour Scholarship and Aspire Scholarship students are establishing an academic mentoring programme. Senior students (Year 11–13) will mentor younger students (Year 7–10). This will build on the existing Endeavour morning teas and review meetings, and continue to support students to aspire to excellence.

Endeavour Scholarship Programme

The Endeavour Scholarship Programme, launched in 2001, has had a wonderful impact on the culture at St Cuthbert's, celebrating cultural diversity and providing an enriched learning opportunity for all students.

Up to four scholarships are awarded each year to prospective students of Maori and/or Pasifika heritage who are commencing studies in Year 7, and provide support right through the College.

Our current Head Girl, Tiana Willis-Baker, is a proud Endeavour Scholarship recipient and has fully embraced the spirit of the Programme, sharing her cultural heritage with the students and teachers, and adding a richness to College life.

Speaking about how rewarding it has been to share her culture, and teach the underlying values that have been central to her upbringing to girls of other cultures, Tiana is humble, yet very proud.

She holds her hands to her heart as she talks, and you know that her words come from deep within, are rooted in love and compassion, and are shared willingly for the benefit of others.

"Looking back, I didn't realise the full extent of what this scholarship would mean to me, my family, the College, and my community.

"The opportunity to share my culture and heritage with others, and at the same time to learn about other cultures, opens our minds to the world we live in. It helps us to find the common aspects that unify us and build a stronger, more tolerant, and respectful community.

"It is much more than shared traditions, and diversity is respected at St Cuthbert's well beyond the cultural events and activities. What we have created here is the opportunity to contribute to ethical and philosophical discussions about significant world events from a cultural perspective."

Tiana's contributions, and those of all other Endeavour Scholarship students has a lasting impact on the College and continues to enrich the lives of our students.

The transition to College life was an initial shock to Tiana, who joined St Cuthbert's from a small, private Christian school of 100 students.

"I was the only girl in my year group of five students. I moved from a small, extremely intimate environment to a year group that was larger than my entire school. But the opportunity this has afforded me has been phenomenal. It has inspired me to reach out to others, to share more of me and to give back at every opportunity.

"I feel so blessed to have this support and assistance. Knowing that someone cares enough to invest in my education is wonderful. I can't describe what that generosity means to me and to my family."

Tiana's younger sister, Alayna, followed in her footsteps; in 2014 she was also awarded an Endeavour Scholarship. Together, they share their Samoan and Tokelauan heritage and bring a unique perspective to College life.

They epitomise our College values – **By Love Serve.**

Endeavour Scholarship Programme

- Established in 2001 for girls of Maori and/or Pasifika heritage
- Awarded each year to up to 4 prospective students commencing studies in Year 7
- Provides tuition support across all years at the College
- Application details can be found at <http://www.stcuthberts.school.nz/joining-us/scholarships/endeavour/>