

Picture this: Your mom or dad wakes you up in the morning and tells you that you need to start preparing. You get up from bed, change into your uniforms, and eat the breakfast they have prepared for you. You hop on the school bus or in the car, and you've reached the school. You greeted your friends, talked about yesterday's news, went to your classes, and heard from the tannoy that students would have to be dismissed earlier as the ministry announced schools to be closed. Many have cheered, some have been silent, and some are unsure of what is to happen. It was viewed by many of us as a long, relaxing holiday away from school. and everything has changed ever since then.

A pleasant day to you all! My name is Mekaila Mangubat.

It has been years since our journey in MIS (Mesaieed International School) secondary campus began. 5 years ago, was the start of my secondary school journey in MIS coming from the Philippines. A massive change that I must adapt to, a fear to overcome, a challenge to face.

You might have recognised me from seeing me participating in numerous school organisations and events such as Bml ambassador, library leader, Matilda plays voluntary work, from choir 3 years ago, school performances, school committees and student council.

Lots of creative ideas, exciting events, and activities to look forward to were shared during speech day. We came to realise that we all have the same aim which is to represent you; to be your voice. You as a student or a teacher are important. It's not just me or Pranav being elected in this position but it's also you as a part of this community. I have led many group activities as well as events, but nothing beats the spirit of everybody working together as a team.

It is crucial that we establish an environment where everyone feels welcome and comfortable. No matter where you come from, your background, or your experiences, you have a place here, and your voice matters.

I understand that every individual in this room has their own successes and struggles though it can also be a time for self-discovery. I encourage each one of you to explore your interests, talents, and passions. Our school is a place where you can discover your strengths and talents, and I am committed to supporting programs that allow you to do just that. At the end of the day, we aim to be high-achieving, healthy and happy individuals who are ready for society.

I have always put myself in a place that is completely outside of my comfort zone; further pushed myself to make contributions and got involved with many extracurricular activities that I could be passionate about. And as a result, I enjoyed the memories, experiences, and lessons it gave me. I was invisible 5 years ago, and I was scared to discover new ideas, but I stood my ground and MIS helped shape the Mekaila that is here standing in front of you. And it would be my honour to give back and help you to be the better version of yourself.