

cheer count

Kekeli



Wunnam



Sia



Cleveland



Carlton



Miama



The ICS Newsletter is performing a case study of voting choice and influence 'Head over heart or bias'. As part of the experiment, media coverage and analysis is being taken of The Student Representative elections. Hopefully, at the end of our findings, we'll get to know some truth to the democracy in voting and give people preparing to run for prefectship coming next year the information to succeed.

On the 22nd of November, 2021 the awaited race for leadership roles in the Student Representative Council aka SRC officially began with manifesto reading being the main purpose of our gathering.

The candidates and corresponding positions were as follows: Miama Iddisah and Carlton Quarthey, both running for SRC President, Sia Camara, Adam Wunnam Kasim and Cleveland Atta contesting for Vice President and with no other contestant Kekeli Atiase stands alone in the race for Secretary (almost as if it's a cool chop but let's wait and see).

The future of ICS is in your hands.

WUNNAM

We cannot succeed without a proper sense of direction.

CLEVELAND

There is no substitute for experience.

CARLTON

Together we can write our story and create a united student body

KEKELI

I seek to create an orchestra where every voice is heard.

SIA

Make me your voice
As I am the only right choice.

MIAMA

KEKELI – SECRETARY

Kekeli started his manifesto reading quite calmly, easing the flow of the event. His manifesto would be described as heavily metaphorical and bright with a fluid tone mainly appealing to the student body. Here are the highlights of his turn: He seeks to create, inspire and develop, and he would love the opportunity to be part of the SRC so he can be the arches of our community with the students' guidance. Ending strongly with "together we can write our story and create a united student body".

SIA SOYAH CAMARA – VICE PRESIDENT

Sia walked to the stage with determination and purpose in her steps, followed by a loud uproar. She seemed a bit shy, but her passion later sprung through her reading, though much of what she said was almost inaudible. Sia was less of a reader and more of a thinker.

Let's take a look at the highlights of her speech; She wishes for the school community to be an orchestra where every single voice is heard and is here to make ICS a more fully active school.

CLEVELAND AMOAKO ATTA – VICE PRESIDENT

Cleveland was a new face and name, and this would be the first time some people ever heard his voice or the potential he has.

Cleveland greeted and addressed the higher-ups, then jumped straight into his plans with personal character description and advice intersecting his speech once in a while.

He made open and general notes as well as promises. He often mentioned wanting to work with various prefects to achieve perceived goals.

Notably, he was like a father with short bouts of fun and then hardening to emphasise the responsibility these freedoms attract and the discipline that must lead. Quote, "Friendship and teamwork inclusive of fun".

ADAM WUNNAM KASIM _-VICE PRESIDENT

Wunnam's manifesto started off humorful as he slipped at his very first phrase, saying 'Good afternoon' at early 8 am.

Wunnam's speech could be viewed as unique as he was the only aspirant who gave us a brief introduction on what the SRC is and what exactly being in the SRC entails. His main focus was letting us know his plans and more campaign-based. Let's take a look at what he had to offer from his manifesto:

He brought up the idea of weekly suggestion boxes and educational field trips. Not forgetting the introduction of spirit week with activities planned for each day; barefoot day, twin day and crazy day, just to name a few.

CARLTON QUARTEY - PRESIDENT

Carlton was escorted by an entourage of 2, Kai and Jude, walked confidently, followed by loud cheers from the audience. As he flexed the numerous positions in the school, namely head boy and boarding prefect, he sang on the leadership qualities instilled in him over the years. His main highlight was his opening remark, "there is no substitute for experience".

He pronounced tackling the washrooms as his number one priority.

The introduction of support groups with the counsellor's supervision and aspired for a swim team in light of the upcoming school pool. Carlton signed off with his code name Tino, bringing about praise and cheering.

MIAMA IDDISAH - PRESIDENT

Using "I Have A Dream " from the famous speech delivered by Martin Luther King as a template, she bellowed her dream where students of ICS are academically inclined and are raging with school spirit, no longer zombies moping around. Confidence is what rings in her speech. She seems like a go-getter, dirty or not. Enticing us with a Spanish saying, Miama spoke in a manner that engaged the crowd. Let's take a look at a few:

She spoke about the rejuvenation of the snack bar and the selling of small chops after school—additionally, she introduced a Common room where students could go during free periods.

The big question. Do you think you'll win?

Yeah, I think I will win first because my ideas and advice were more realistic and attainable with basic things like good hygiene in the washroom relative to other ideas brought up like ordering food. Though I definitely saw other points to be valid, like mental health, which I would also love to build on. Some things can be distracting and affect overall student performance so I hope those will be well managed.

How did you feel during the reading? Were you nervous?

I believed I was candid and said things that I could do. I also think that some of the other ideas mentioned by other candidates were good but entirely overreaching. The younger ones shouldn't get their hopes high only to have them turned down later. It was all honesty and realism for me.

You mentioned being made fun of as an international student, particularly by your Liberian accent. What's up with that?

Yeah, some people do make fun of my accent. It's all fun and games, but we shouldn't be at this point as an international school. Students should be able to treat each other fairly and respectfully. We are building international relations and learning how to relate to the different cultures we will work with in the future. I have been a student in my home country and internationally, so I connect with both sides.

Any advice for the students?

Please vote wisely, that's all.

Were you nervous, and how do you think it went?

"I was a bit nervous because I started campaigning kinda late due to external reasons. Everyone else believed there was already a strong candidate running and that I wouldn't win, so it kind of reduced my confidence though not my willingness and capability".

Do you think experience matters?

Yes, I absolutely do. I even mentioned it at the beginning of my manifesto." There is no substitute for experience" Concerning that, I am also a boarder, so I relate well with the problems, especially the basic ones. There has always been a lack of initiative, and when I was in year 7 I wished someone would have brought sports teams. When I grew older, Kekeli and I had conversations with school authorities. Convincing them was hard enough because their hands were already tight and busy with other affairs like constructing the structure we sit in right now. It was very vigorous (writing numerous letters), and we even had to find our own coach!

The big question. Do you think you'll?

Laughed Others don't believe I'll win. But I do. I am simply confident and not usually pessimistic. Surely I will keep on putting in the effort, and you've not lost until the results say you have.

How do you think other candidates did?

Being respectful when addressing school authorities and not attacking nor discrediting them is crucial. I spoke to some of the cleaners and learnt the toilet roll issue results from kids playing with them and clogging toilets. Additionally, I just want to clear the air that SRC is not about demanding things from the school authorities rather trying to find a middle ground, negotiate even. All students, representatives inclusive, need to look at things from the schools' point of view. I also want to have fun, of course, but there are some tasks that the school will never budge on. We need to be objective and fix the actual petty problems first.

Any advice?

Everyone can stand to talk and make promises but can they back their bark?

Were you nervous, and how do you think it went?

Honestly, I wasn't nervous at all. It felt really normal. Compared to the day before, I did way better as I was a bit unprepared then.

Do you think experience matters?

I was the boy's dorm prefect of Temple Christian International School. That role made me realize leadership isn't just about listening to the views of others and being listened to, but also about dealing with others with patience. It made me a bit firmer and helped me use a more commanding voice to get my points across.

Why should you be elected into power?

I believe I have what it takes, and I'm more than willing to get the job done. My main goal is to help people and see people benefitting through my efforts.

Any advice?

So long as the possibility is not zero, hunt it down.

Were you nervous, and how do you think it went?

Yes, I was nervous before I started delivering my manifesto. In the course of my delivery, however, I began to gain confidence. The technical difficulties during my manifesto reading had a negative effect on me but I was able to keep going despite that setback. Overall, I think it went well.

The big question, do you think you will win?

Yes. I think everyone is supposed to have confidence in themselves. I give more of a friendly vibe than the other candidates.

What do you think about the only question a media representative asked you?

I expected a question like that but from a teacher rather. Honestly, it kind of ticked me off when I first heard it, but then I realised where the question was coming from, especially from a new student. As I said then, our numbers were small, so getting things done was a handful, and the school was still building physically and in other ways. I made the best of the resources I was given. I focused on the simple things we can do, nothing over the top, just competitions. Then it was nice something nonacademic we could enjoy.

Any advice?

If you want to do something, don't think about other's opinions.

Were you nervous, and how do you think it went?

I was a bit nervous especially since I am a new student. I think the turnout was very good despite that fact. I am very thankful to all those who cheered for me throughout the manifesto reading.

The big question, do you think you will win?

I am not entirely sure but I am hoping for the best. Carlton has been in the school for a longer time than I have been. That gives him an advantage. However, I believe I have been able to express myself in a way that puts my points across. I have many ideas that I believe could make ICS a better place and trust the students to make the right choice. I was elated to see and hear the support from the student body as the speech was ongoing and hope that will reflect in the ballot boxes as well.

Any advice?

Fix your eye on what you want and don't be afraid to go after it.

What's up with the cancelling Worship?

Initially, upon coming to the school, I didn't know ICS was a Christian school. Obviously, when moving into a new environment you have to conform to the rules and standards. I'd like to refrain from my point rather I hope a designated room can be made available for non-Christians as I don't wish to exchange quality education for my religion.

Were you nervous, and how do you think it went?

It honestly felt very normal. This is my fifth year being in the school and I actually felt a bit shy as there were more people around. However, everything else was chill.

How did you feel being the only candidate?

I was kind of surprised no one else wanted to take responsibility to be answerable to the student body. Being the only candidate, I also feel a bit anxious as the probability of winning or losing is unknown.

Do you think you'll win?

Yes, I 100% believe I'll win.

Any advice?

Have confidence. Be willing to listen after all, it isn't only your opinion that matters.

The identities of the commenters remain anonymous to protect their image.

Person 1: To the audience, it seemed as if Sia Camara only wrote the main points down and elaborated on the spot as she went along.

Person 2: Wunnam and Cleveland were very organised.

Person 3: Sia stands no chance as she was inaudible.

Person 3 and 4: Most of the aspirants disrespected the authorities. Although it's SRC, they still needed to ink it to the authorities. There was some lowkey disrespect and disregard for the school.

Person 5: Carlton's entourage showed he was confident; however, he didn't speak confidently.

Person 6: Wunnam made a lot of far-fetched promises and didn't talk about things he could achieve now.

Person 7: Cleveland's ending was lovely.

Person 8: Kekeli's reading seemed too informal and was more of campaigning.

Person 9: Who even is Cleveland? Me, I don't know who he is. But I know Wunnam *smirks*. ???!?!?

Person 10: It was Miama's campaigning for me. She started early. The rest dierrr.

Person 11: Miami won't lose; she's the only candidate who has hope. Also, they were only vibing the students.

Person 12: Carlton didn't seem confident. He didn't force.

Person 13: I think ICS should improve the sound system. I couldn't hear much of what was said.

Person 14: These people didn't force kraa. None of them addressed the dignitaries well. Some addressed students before the teachers. Almost no one mentioned the head of school!

Person 15: This wasn't manifesto reading; it was campaigning, which they should have done earlier, as Miama did. They should come to me; I will teach them.

Sir Eric Fosu

For a first, it was good. It would have been if students submitted for proofreading. If they got some coaching. Public speaking is necessary. Delivery. Composure. Everything counts.

Sir Stan

It's a good feeling to know that my children show signs of responsibility. Moments like these make me very happy. For Vice President, I think they are all equally likely to win. So candidates should be prepared.

Sir Myles

It was obvious that, for some, it was the first time campaigning in front of so many people. The candidates when they come into power still have a lot to learn about the SRC's function. I think it's a good platform to help the students build their leadership capabilities. Lastly, whoever wins should be ready, willing and able to work effectively and open to criticism.

Anonymous Teacher

It's one thing giving out ideas, and another thing implementing them. Also, they must be realistic as it's the school who'll implement these ideas.

Did you enjoy this coverage ?

Read more on the analysis when The ICS Newsletter; Christmas Edition launches coming December, including the secret behind Candidate D's possible win.

MORE COMING SOON