

2019 HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS ASSEMBLY

Good afternoon Br Sherrin, College Dux and very special guest speaker, Mr Joshua Rayner, Mr Damo, Mr Batchelor, staff, parents and students of St. Pius and our very special guests of honour, the Year 12 2018 HSC High Achievers. Welcome all.

The last time we gathered formally in the Concourse was last year at the Year 12 Graduation and I spoke in honour of the class of 2018. You may even recall my attempt to sing to them the inspiring hit, This Is Me, from the movie “The Greatest Showman” concluding with:

***I'm not scared to be seen
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me.***

This song encapsulates the spirit, determination and individuality of the HSC class of 2018. On that day I said this of them:

They are individuals and they are a united force. They are intelligent, creative, independent thinkers, capable musicians and performers, sportsmen and servicemen, men of faith and men of action. Men for the future. Considerate and kind. Enthusiastic and passionate. They want to make a difference.

Their success in the HSC was no fluke and no surprise. They truly worked for it and they deserve the outstanding results they received. They have already begun their journey into their future. Today we congratulate not only the High Achievers who are here but all of Year 12.

I do especially congratulate these 2018 High Achievers on not only their studies but on their involvement in the school. Let me use the College Dux, Joshua Rayner as an example. Josh is a truly humble quiet achiever. Joshua had to forego his Graduation last year because he was playing in the AFL National Futures match in Melbourne as a

curtain raiser to the AFL Grand Final. Josh is an elite sportsman but was able to manage his sporting commitments with a brilliant and balanced approach to his studies.

Josh worked at his HSC every day – day in and day out to build his knowledge, understand skills and develop deep learning. Just like an elite sportsman, Josh paced himself to peak at the right time to make the HSC All Rounders list with all Band 6s and with an ATAR of 99.45 Joshua beat out his fellow students to be the College Dux. Simply brilliant!

So many outstanding results – with our other NSW All Rounders – Phillip Cullen (Cultural Prefect), Hunter Clarke (Cultural Prefect), College Captain Daniel Hall, College Vice Captain Nikita Papstamatis and Learning Prefect Isaac Fong.

Our first in State in History Extension, Cultural Prefect Jasper Choi.

Among our HSC 2018 High Achievers you see very familiar names and faces. Some who can be here and some who have started their life with University, industry, ADFA and the like.

Jamie Aleporos (Peer Support leader), Daniel Aposhian (Learning Prefect) , Alex Bain (2018 Best All Rounder), Jamieson Bennetts (Eucharistic Minister), Barron House Captain Tom Courtney, London International Youth Science Forum student Michael Currington, Mission and identity Prefect Ben Di Tommaso, Treacy House Captain Tom Findlay (top 10 in State in History Extension), Musician Cody Fisher-Peel, Student Empowerment Team member Connor Fong, Cricketer Jordan Furlan, Christian Harris (Peer Support Leader), Debating Captain Ben Johnson, Jeremy Harris (Peer Support Leader), Patrick Leahy (Founding member of the SPX Chess Club), Lachlan Lowick (Edmund Rice Leadership Award winner), Alex Madirossian (Peer Support leader), Louis Mossman (All rounder of Cricket Chess and study), Matthew Murphy (Peer Mentor), Wellbeing Prefect Carlo Orbegoso-Jordan, Mission and Identity Prefect Nick Parker, Robert Richey (Robotics leader), London Science Forum Marcus Rossetto, Joshua Smith (Rugby and Mock Trial), Learning Prefect Oliver Stewart and Jake Watts (Peer mentor). The incredible Dramatic talent of Callum Stephen Nominated for OnSTAGE and Vice Captain Jack Moran nominated for ARTEXPRESS. Notably Jack

Moran along Chris Lanzon, Angus Growden, Nick Biviano, Brodie Cullen, Jonathan Stewart and Edwin Harjono have Artworks on currently on display here in the concourse as part of Willoughby City Councils HSC Exhibition entitled SMART EXPRESSIONS. I congratulate Hunter Clarke for his performance on the Vibrofone today and in the HSC ENCORE Program last Monday evening.

So what is the message here for you – without doubt it is about hard work and study but it is actually about everything you do. It is about being fully immersed in the community. About giving everything you have. Through this you develop in every way.

The HSC at St Pius is not only about a day by day persistence and commitment to study It's about becoming a better man - Faith, character, culture, sport, service, leadership and study. Working together with your family, your teachers and your mates.

Your learning each day and the learning tasks for completion build one block upon another.

I congratulate and thank the 2018 HSC High Achievers and indeed all our HSC candidates. Please join with me in acknowledging their achievements.

For every student here, know too that you too can achieve great things. You only need to look at our students receiving awards today. I congratulate all today's Award recipients for 2018.

The clear focus for all students:

- Study hard, work persistently and eliminate distractions (eg social media, off task technology)
- Writing, writing and writing
- Get fully immersed in school life.

Thank you Mr Damo and Mr Casey, the Percussion Ensemble and Mr Talati, Hunter Clarke, Mrs Stephen Cummins and Ms Stella Waddington. I thank 2019 Year 12 Academic Prefects who have hosted today.

Anyone can achieve and receive these recognitions. Aim to make a personal best this year.

Let us all now commit ourselves to give our personal best for 2019 and we ask God's blessings for our Guests of Honour as they enter the University Studies and the world beyond.

Go and serve others for God, your community and family – work hard and keep the faith.

Fide et Labore!

Mr John Couani
Principal