

Good morning, Mr Couani, staff and finally the students of this great college,

Unfortunately, this is an unusual speech under unusual circumstances, and I am pained to know that this will not be the speech I had dreamed of giving you boys, when I took up my role. But as we all know, this year has been all about improvised solutions to unplanned for problems.

6 years ago on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, I entered the gates of this college, knowing not a single person. I sat by myself for close to two weeks, not by fault but by choice, and being brutally honest, prayed for the school bell to save me each day. 6 years later, I graduate with a group of mates that will last a life time, and leave a school I am forever proud to be a part of. Now the reason I tell you this, is because it is fundamental to the person I am today, fundamental to how I see this school and significant to how lucky we are to be Pius boys.

Pius isn't perfect, nor are you, and there is a reason for that, because perfection does not exist. But what does, is being your best self, and Pius teaches us just that.

I guess what I'm getting at here, is that we have all had our individual hiccups and experiences, and we have many more to come. But all we can really do is support each other, and persevere through the tough times, as all you boys have so admirably done this year.

This year has truly been a never-ending spiral of stop, start, stop, start

We went from classes to zoom calls, from running around on a pitch to push-ups on our bedroom floor and from Netflix episodes to entire Netflix seasons. And just as we started to get comfortable in this new way of life, we were put right back in our old one. What a year!

If I can depart with one piece of advice; it's to just put your hand up for any opportunity that arises. As Year 12 have learnt and in many respects all of you have learnt, you never know when a spanner is going to be thrown in the works. So don't take the many opportunities offered for granted.

To the Class of 2021, you are in great hands with Liam Chang as your leader, and I wish you all the best. To all the teachers, who have carried us through this year, I cannot thank you enough, you are all awesome. And to all the boys across the year groups, who have made our final year of schooling a year to remember. We will never forget you.

Thankyou!