

Good morning and welcome to the

2019 SEMESTER 1 ACADEMIC AWARDS

A CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Dr Steven Williams (special guest from the class of 2009), Mr Casey, Mr Damo, our many parents and family members, members of staff and students and our Award recipients.

As we begin our Celebration of Learning this morning, I invite you to consider our that we name “Fide et Labore”. So what does it mean? What was in the minds of the first Christian Brothers who established this College in 1937? We know that this Latin phrase translates as “Faith and Labour” and most often we represent it as “Faith and Hard Work”. And so it is. FAITH is clear. It means - faith in God, faith in Christ, and faith in ourselves, one another and our community. It is central to our Catholic school. But why “LABORE”? Why not “Faith and Learning”? Or “Faith and Football”? Or “Faith and Fun”? Or “Faith and Hope” or “Love”?

My belief is that “Labore” – labour and hard work, are essential to human behaviour. That without it we lose our direction, purpose, motivation and more than this we lose any sense of accomplishment, achievement, growth, development, improvement. Hard work and human labour brings struggle. Let me emphasise that in all endeavour and in learning that it is in the struggle, - the hard work; that we actually learn. That deep learning is achieved by pushing our learning boundaries. Otherwise, we will only know what we currently know – we can only do what we can presently do. We don’t grow.

Listen today when you here a little about our Guest of Honour, Dr Steven Williams and his story as a young student, then as a professional and a medical researcher. Dr Williams would agree I am sure that no Medical discovery, in any era, was achieved at the first attempt. It is only through hard work, persistence, resilience and doing and re-doing. Learning from what others have learnt and taught.

“Labore” – does mean hard work, it does mean struggle, it does mean learning, it does mean growing. It includes academic performance, enquiry, creativity, cultural pursuits, sporting achievements and all endeavour. And you know what? – when you work hard, learn and achieve - it is fun. It does bring hope and meaning and purpose.

I have said many times at previous Award ceremonies, that every one of you can achieve and you will be recognised. So strive for this in Semester 2. Occasionally a student might say to himself – “I’m going to work really hard today.” And then they do but at the end of the day he might say to himself “I really tried today and no-one noticed!” But success is not achieved in one lesson or one day. Stay at it. Each of us needs to sustain our efforts and piece by piece day by day our hard work will pay off.

Year 7 it is your first Celebration of Learning Awards ceremony and special congratulations to the Year 7 award winners.

I am proud to present all the achievements across Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 and even more proud of the students who have made significant improvement and growth in their learning. Well done. I am especially pleased with Year 10 and their results. Their reports were among the best I’ve seen for some years. Keep up the great work.

I wish to acknowledge the Academic Prefects from Year 12 Daniel Scipioni, Neil D’Silva and Aiden Teuma, and the College Captain Oliver Tysoe for their leadership but especially their hard work in their studies and modelling this to the rest of the school. We wish well all Year 12 for their trials commencing next Monday and thank those Year 12 students performing today. Year 12 challenged all students this year “To Get Amongst It” and again I congratulate those award recipients today for taking up this challenge. Let all of us take up the challenge in this second half of the year and give our learning our very best.

FIDE ET LABORE!