



FAREWELL SPEECH FROM COLLEGE CAPTAIN



Ruby Hoare, 2022

Good morning Sr Mary, Mr Di Camillo, Ms Lennon, Staff, Parents, Special Guests and my fellow Academy students,

Our theme this year was **'Together in Mercy'**, and through this theme my intention, alongside the senior student leadership team, was to come *'together in mercy'* as a college community, to seize each moment and make the most of it. To establish connection after two years of remote learning and most importantly to empower every single one of you to live and act with mercy daily. Thank you for your involvement in all initiatives, I hope this provided you all with an insight to recognize the importance of acting with compassion, service, and respect to others, and also to ourselves. The Academy community is a very special place. It has continued to nurture me and has had a part in who I am today. The mercy education I have received through my secondary schooling has given me the power which will continue to guide me to act with mercy and according to my moral compass daily. **Sr Mary**, thank you for creating a school community that continuously gives with compassion and service, enabling we Academy students to reach our full potential. **I want to extend my thanks to all the staff**, teachers for your continued effort in making the Academy an inclusive and welcoming place to learn and be. It's all your generosity and passion that has helped we students to be where we are today.

To my fellow year 12 cohort we have made it. We started in 2017 as little year sevens and we graduate from the Academy as strong independent individuals, who have gained a deeper understanding of ourselves. We have all now been equipped with the power of an education, and with this we can all unlock our potential to support ourselves and contribute to making a difference in the world. I'm so proud of every single one of you, for you have kept going when it's been challenging, and have given it your all. Grateful for all the connections. I wish you all the best for all your future endeavours. **To the senior student leadership team of 2022.** I am so grateful to have been able to work alongside you all, supporting the Academy community to come *together in mercy* to continue to share our piece in Academy's mercy story. To Ruby Lomas Mee, thank you for all your commitment, passion and for always being by my side as we lead the Academy with pride together, I am very grateful to you.

Year 12 is a comprehensively stressful yet extremely rewarding year. Ms Muller, you are the teacher who has been behind every single one of us year twelves pushing us all forward, teaching us perseverance and grit, always having your door open for a chat to support the maintenance of our wellbeing. Thank you for your commitment to us. Your wisdom has truly guided us all through our final year, it will continue to inspire us all to follow our aspirations beyond the gates of the Academy and to never give up even when it gets hard. Thank you for supporting the senior student leadership team alongside Sr Mary, Mr Di Camillo and Mr Molino. We are so grateful for all of the commitment, time and effort you have put into supporting our team to ensure we lead the Academy with the upmost integrity. **To all our year 12 teachers**, we year twelves would not be in the position equipped with the knowledge to perform to the best of our ability in the final exams, if it wasn't for all of your consistent guidance, and immense effort. We are all very grateful for everything you have done and continue to do for us.

To my family I am very lucky to have you all. Will, always grateful for the brotherly love and your generosity in always offering to drive me places is very much appreciated. You continue to always have

my back. Michael, you inspire me to always give it my best. I am in awe of your courage and resilience you continue to demonstrate in the face of adversity and the many lessons you have taught me simply just as a human being, always reminding me to live authentically. Dad who is currently enjoying a fishing trip in the middle of nowhere. But in all seriousness, you make me smile and bring the calm in the storm of the pressure year 12 delivers. The space you enable for me to talk your absolute ears off explaining principles to help me consolidate my learning is very much appreciated. Thank you for being by my side throughout the year. To mum, from the very bottom of my heart, I am so unbelievably grateful to you, for your love, generosity, and tender care you continuously show towards me. Thank you for always holding my hand when tears run down my face in periods of stress and overwhelming times and thank you for joyfully sharing and celebrating the many small wins across the years with me. You've been the person I ramble to when coming up with new school initiatives and your consideration, compassion and kindness in everything you do for me is much appreciated.

To the class of 2023. You are all about to be buckled into the year 12 roller coaster, one which is the best and unforgettable, at times it will be bumpy and at times it will be smooth. So have each other's backs when its rocky, and embrace every single moment, make fond memories to treasure, because it really is a very short ride. I wish you all the best. **To next year's College Captain.** You have been given a very special opportunity. Embrace it all and believe in yourself. I encourage you to lead with heart and allow your moral compass and the mercy values to guide you in everything you do, amplify and empower your Academy community to be even better.

To the students of the Academy, From someone with Tourette's syndrome, I've have had to face many challenges but with hard work, commitment, and perseverance anything is possible. No matter who you are, authenticity is your power. Accept yourself for who you are and love it unconditionally. Work hard, stay committed and your goals will be reached. Mercy is your superpower, be compassionate to those you walk by, always show respect within and outside the gates of the Academy, actively listen and be of service to others. Most importantly show courage and stand up for what you believe in. What you set your mind to; you will achieve.

Once again, Academy will always hold a special place in my heart, its lessons, its people, and the rich mercy story which will continue to be written by you all. Although it is extremely hard to close this chapter of my life. I will always be reminded that I am an Academy girl, by the power of mercy I hold inside of me which will guide me on my journey throughout this amazing experience we call life.

Thank you

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Philippians 2:3-4