



## 2022 COLLEGE CAPTAIN SPEECH

### College Captain, Ruby Hoare's: opening speech

Good Morning, Sr Mary, Mr Di Camillo, Ms Lennon, Staff, Students and special guests

Welcome to 2022. I hope everyone has had a relaxing and delightful summer break, and are ready to challenge this year with grit and enthusiasm. What a year it will be.

A very warm welcome to all our new members of the academy, especially our Year 7s. We are all so happy to have you part of our community. You may be feeling a little nervous and that's okay, but I can assure you that we are all here to support you, as you find your place and begin your high school journey.

Our College theme this year is "Together in Mercy" this theme inspires all of us to establish reconnection and celebrate 165 years of Academy. Most importantly, it serves as a reminder to continue to act and speak with compassion, courage, service, justice, hospitality and respect. As we enter and exit the Academy gates each day, I encourage each and every single one of you to be leaders in mercy. To walk side by side each other when adversity arises, to forgive and speak with kindness, to lift one another up with encouragement and to listen and amplify the hushed voices in the community.

Through acting with mercy in our daily lives, spreading kindness and being considerate of one another, we continue to contribute to creating a place where we all feel accepted for who we are. We can stand up for what we believe in without judgment, and continue to help make Academy a special place.

I know that this year will have its highs and its lows and that's all part of life. As we begin this year, I challenge you all to come up with a courage mantra, a mantra that you can say to yourself when faced with challenge, one which motivates you to keep going and inspires you to act for the better. It may be as simple as "I really can do this."

I will do my very best to support you all to be the best you can absolutely be, to empower you all to follow your own path and to take a chance, step outside of your comfort zone and grow. The Senior Student Leadership Team and I are always up for a chat so feel free to send us an email or find us in the yard.

As we move forward together in mercy, let's continue to cheer one another, to work hard, to form memories to treasure, to make the most of the present moment we have together, as we rise from the pandemic with resilience and strength. Alongside our amazing College Vice Captain, Ruby Lomas-Mee and our Senior Student Leadership Team, let's all give 2022 our absolute best.

Before I conclude, I would like to leave you all with a quote, a quote that I hope inspires you to continue to act with purpose and meaning each day, "Kindness is within our power no matter what".

Thank You