

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Gundijmara people and their elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge indigenous people watching on today.

Well what a year.....When you started 2020 in your last year as Secondary School Students there was promise of a great year ahead as the oldest members of the student body ready for the challenges and celebrations that year 12 brings.

Roll forward 9 months and not only has your year been very different than any before but in those 9 months the world has changed, possibly forever.

Whilst America, Russia and China were posturing about world leadership in January, a small spikey virus was about to show us just how fragile human domination on the planet can be.

Your schooling started as face to face learning with some concerns about Covid -19 in February but that was overseas somewhere in some foreign country. It then made its way through international travel and we found ourselves in lockdown and Remote Learning one. Your teachers were also learning in an unfamiliar online environment using Microsoft Teams. We learned as you learned and we scrambled to put together supports as best we could.

You however, as digital natives with your insta snappy tweet skills were amazing in how you adapted and in some cases thrived in the new virtual platform. It wasn't the same for all of you and I know some of you struggled despite the support we endeavoured to provide.

Back to school and we thought it was all behind you but the return to normal schooling was short lived and you were back at home once again. This time we had all learnt lessons on how to manage this learning environment and you again showed your courage and resilience as you persevered to make your way through to the end before finally coming back to school with new exam dates and the GAT.

For many of you, this year is the end of 6 years at Baimbridge College, some less having moved from other towns or other schools and some since you were primary school students when we were a P-12 School.

You have been on amazing camps and excursions, met lifelong friends, loved and lost and learned from some incredible teachers who you will always remember fondly. Many of you have already grown to be incredible young

ambassadors for all that is good in our youth and others have that growth in front of them.

It was encouraging to hear yesterday from your career presenters of the many jobs that are out there for you and the large number of TAFE and university places on offer. This is great news and I hope you felt reassured by this knowledge as I know I did. Don't dismiss the bravery of Mick to share his knowledge of Mindfulness. It is a great tool, just ask Dustin Martin.

This year has been one of challenge and growth. And you will find that nothing every stays the same no matter what choices you make in life. Your future YOU, will look back on the resilience and persistence you have shown over your time at Baimbridge and particularly this year and hopefully be grateful for the way you have handled yourself in preparing for what lies ahead.

I think highly of each of you and know you will make great strides in your community and wish you every success and happiness in the future. We will miss you, not the mess of today but we will miss you. Good luck with your exams, job interviews, new employment opportunities, and have a great end to what has been a challenging year and continue to do your best. You are welcome back at any time.

Well done and Congratulations.