

Lachie Mathie – Inaugural Speech

Thankyou Michael,

Good afternoon, Mr Couani, Mayor Giles-Gidney, Father Jim, Parents, Staff and Students of the college.

Today, you have all listened to what our Student Leadership Team and their respective support teams want to achieve and provide to not only better your learning environment, but to provide all of you boys with a school that you genuinely feel comfortable in. But what we've left out is the big goal. The big goal of having each and every one of you be able to pursue your passion and know that there is a support network right behind you.

You know, after having sat at home in front of my screen watching video after video trying to find content that explains our goal for the year, I sort of came to the conclusion that our theme and slogan speak for themselves. But to you all right now, what is up behind me is probably just a couple of words on a screen and that's it. It might mean nothing to you, it might have no impact on you, it might not be this it might not be that, but what I can tell you all, is that it is a challenge, to each and everyone of you, students, parents, teachers to support and guide those people, who are attempting to pursue their passion, who are doing what they love.

I hate to say this, but the reality is that a lot of us have a path created by the pressure of what others want us to be and the fear of not being that person. Is it wrong to say that we do things to keep

everyone around us happy, but what do we do to keep ourselves happy? How can we succeed in being the person that we want to be?

At the end of the day, it's your path and only yours, so why let others dictate the path you're going to walk when they are not going to walk it themselves.

That's why I'm putting this challenge to you, to find your passion and to follow it. You need to have very clear vision of where you want to go and what you want to achieve. Because when you chase that passion, every step that you take that brings you that little bit closer to your end goal will help you to find your meaning, your purpose, and the mojo that gets you up and going in life.

For most of us, you may not be able to find your passion or your mojo straight away. You may not find what you are passionate about for a very very long time. But that's okay, we are still in high school boys, only some of you will have been fortunate enough to find your purpose, but that doesn't mean we can't try and search for it. And what better way to search, than making use of all the opportunities that Pius provides. Get out there, take that leap of faith outside of your comfort zone, try new things, things that you didn't think would ever interest you in a million years.

I want you all to imagine this ok. We all know Arnold Schwarzenegger, ex bodybuilder, the terminator, inspirational businessman, and previous politician. Well back in the day, he made the choice to pursue his passion of bodybuilding, now at the time this industry was only small, but through doing what he loved he was

always able to chase bigger and better goals. Now look at the fitness industry today, one of the fastest growing in the world. And I can say that is partially the result of one person who had the humility and bravery to follow his passion, which had this multiplier effect of causing multitudes of others to follow theirs. Boys imagine what our school would look like if everyone could inspire and encourage the people around them to do this, now that is strength through support and that is culture.

All of us need each other, no one can succeed alone, yes we can pursue our passion alone, but I can assure you all that the string you tread on is going to take you a lot further, when you have people right there behind you.

As Schwarzenegger has said,

“The mind is the limit. As long as the mind can envision the fact that you can do something, you can do it, as long as you really believe 100 percent” listen again as long as you really believe 100 percent

So, If your passion lies in rugby or any sport for that matter, but you’ve been brainwashed into believing that its just not for you

“Don’t just turn up to sport on Saturday and ‘see how you go’; train hard throughout the week and think about your game plan as a team or individual. “

If your goal after school to be accepted into an intellectual uni course, but your marks in English are the only force stopping you

“Don’t just turn up to English class and bludge by not contributing to a class discussion; listen carefully to what others have to say and see if their views help shape or refine your perspectives”.

So I pose this question,

Why do you come to school? Is it because you want to or is it because you have to? Now the immediate reaction of “I much rather my sleep” I’m assuming was the first thought that crossed everyone in this theatres mind. But what if we could flip that reaction, and change school from being a chore to I don’t know a hobby, something that excites you

Now realistically that’s not going to happen anytime soon, but it gives us a vision to work towards

We don’t want to necessarily change the structure of the school, we don’t want the school to be perfect, we aren’t aiming to make our school the best school around. At the end of the day what we are aiming for is a culture where no matter the circumstances Pius boys, boys that are proud to be a part of this very college can stand arm in arm together, turn to each other for help and trust that on this gruellingly difficult and stressful journey of high school, you’ll make memories that last forever and exit those gates on the very last day of school knowing that you are the person that you want to be.

Remember that support at Pius comes in numbers, and when there is support there is strength. Pursue your Passion and create your own path.

Thankyou

