

End of Year Awards Presentation Speech for Years 7 & 11

Good morning, staff, students, parents and a very special welcome to a favourite ex-student of ours Bishop Terry Brady ... most recent Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney and is a wonderful supporter of our College...

We thank you for blessing our St Aloysius Icon and it's wonderful to have you here at the College for today's end of year award presentation assembly.

It's an absolute privilege to stand before you today, as we come together to celebrate the achievements, growth, and dedication of our Year 7 and Year 11 students. Today is a time for reflection, recognition, and, most importantly, to acknowledge the hard work and resilience each of you has shown throughout the year.

First, to our Year 7 students, welcome to the senior school! (Well...it must feel a bit like this at the moment.)

You have made an incredible transition, from navigating new subjects to settling into a new routine, and it has been wonderful to see you all rise to the challenge.

Your first year of secondary school is not just about academic progress, but about learning who you are, discovering new interests, and building friendships that will last for years to come. It's been a year full of growth, both personally and academically, and we're all proud of how you've embraced the Lasallian journey so far.

And to our Year 11 students—well, what a year it has been. As you begin to approach the final stages of your secondary school journey, you've already shown incredible dedication to your studies,.... demonstrated leadership,and worked through the challenges of balancing school life with the pressures of exams and future decisions.

This year is not just about completing coursework or preparing for the next stage of your education; it's about setting the foundation for your future,.... and the commitment you've shown is inspiring.

You're at a pivotal point, and as you move towards your final year, I have no doubt you will continue to rise to the challenges ahead with the same determination.

Today, we will be celebrating academic excellence, awards for Learning Growth, excellence in sport, a number of pastoral awards, and also recognise students through Lasallian and mission awards.

These awards are not just a reflection of your grades or ranks , but of the qualities that make each **one** of you truly exceptional—your perseverance, kindness, creativity, and leadership.

It's these qualities that will serve you well, not only through school but in life beyond.

As we present each award, I encourage you to remember that success is not always measured by grades alone.

It's the effort, the resilience, the willingness to try new things, and the ability to grow from challenges that truly define success.

So, whether you're receiving an award today or simply being part of this moment, be proud of everything you've achieved.

Each one of you has a unique path, and today is a celebration of that journey.

Before we begin the awards, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our teachers, who have supported, guided, and inspired our students throughout the year.

Your dedication to their success is the foundation of everything we celebrate today. A special thank you also to the parents, families, and friends who have been a constant source of encouragement. Your support plays a vital role in helping our students reach their potential.

Now, as we begin the presentation of awards, I invite you to celebrate with us all the achievements of your peers, and let's take this moment to reflect on how far we've come together as a College in this transformational year.

Once again, congratulations to all of you, and thank you for making this year one to remember.

Keep striving,keep growing as young Lasallian women and men,

Remember to always put your trust in God's way...as he has a plan for us all...or as Jeremiah put's it beautifully in the old Testament...

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper youand not to harm you,..... plans to give you hopeand a future."

Year 7 & Year 11 know that we are incredibly proud of you all.

God Bless and thank you.

Stephen Mahoney