

Good morning staff, students and guests.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the staff who have helped and supported me over my time in high school. I want to especially thank my Year 12 teachers; I would not be in this position without your continued guidance and help last year.

Students, these teachers are one of the most valuable resources you can access, so I strongly encourage you make the most of your time with them. They're experts in their subject, so the more you engage with their classes and constantly ask questions, the more you are going to learn, and the better your understanding will be come assessment time. Every teacher at this school has your best interests at heart. They are here because they care about you and want to see you succeed, not only in school, but in life, so never hesitate to go to them for help.

If you told me 12 months ago that I would be in this position I would not believe you. I had cruised through five years of high school without really putting any effort into my studies. When I reached Year 12, I decided I wanted to really push myself and reach my full academic potential. This simple shift in mindset led me to creating short and long-term goals and a more consistent study routine, as well as making conscious efforts to be productive during class time. The results were immediate, and the more I learnt, the more enjoyable each subject became.

The main lesson from all of this that I want to share with you is that if you remain truly committed to a goal you put your mind to, then you will be blown away by what you can achieve.

As beneficial as goal setting is, you still have to put in the hard work. It is important to have a good study routine and habits. Study habits will vary from person to person, and even subject to subject, but last year I found practicing questions and past exam papers particularly useful. To the Year 11 and 12 students especially, the earlier you can get stuck into past exams, and the more you can complete, the more comfortable you are going to feel come exam time. As for routine, I believe study quality is much more important than study quantity. I'm not saying don't study for four hours a night, but studying in shorter sessions with breaks in between will keep your mind focused on what you are studying, helping you retain the information better.

Success as a student is much more than your academic results. High school is not only a time to learn about Math and English, but also an opportunity to learn valuable life skills and make good memories. Being involved in school events, activities and clubs across all the Four Pillars is a great way to grow yourself as a person and build strong friendships, so I strongly encourage all of you to get involved as much as possible.

Living a balanced lifestyle will be extremely beneficial to you as a student. Whilst it can be difficult juggling a busy school life with social commitments, especially in upper school, it is important you keep up your hobbies, whether that be a sport, or music or something else, social connections with your friends and family, and, for some of you, work.

Most of all, do what makes you happy, and try get the most fun out of your schooling years.

Thank you and good luck to you all.