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Photo: Danny John

The HSC class of 2017

St Pius X College Senior Investiture Day Monday October 24 2016

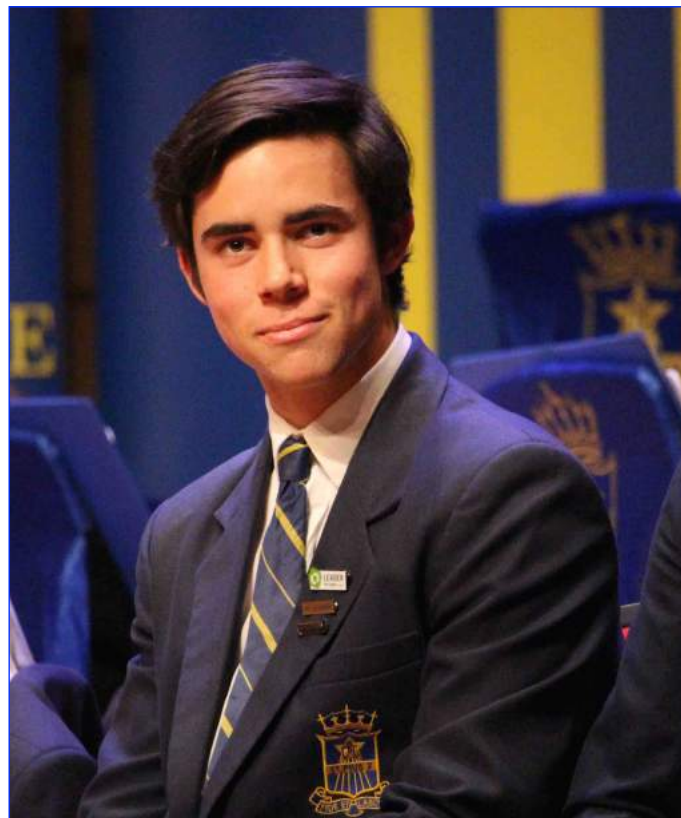
‘There is a spark in all of us. But our greatest challenge in life is how we ignite that spark.’

School Captain Joe Unwin



'Ready to share our light with the world'

Good afternoon Mr Couani, members of the official party, parents, staff and students. We are all gathered here today because we are part of a special community. A family, in which we grow and learn together. But, ironically, it is in our togetherness that we all learn to be unique. Individuality provides the world with the ideas and creativity that it needs to run. But why is this important? Without individuality there would be no diversity. People would all be the same. There would be no new ideas, no creativity and no excitement. In a world where there could be 7 billion different characters, there would be just one. Thankfully, in the community that we are



School captain Joe Unwin at investiture day. Photos: Danny John

part of, this is not the case. We have all been lucky in our lives to be blessed with such an incredible college to attend. I say this, not because of the incredible education that Pius offers or the everlasting Edmund Rice values that we are taught, but because of the fact that Pius encourages us to be the best people that we can be, ourselves. If there's one thing that stands out about Pius, it's that no two people are the same. Like a delicious curry, our school community is comprised of many different ingredients. We have academics, sportsmen, soccer players, musicians, debaters, actors, chess masters, robotics champions, mock-trialists, hikers, handball



enthusiasts and many, many more. These make up the poppadums, the peanuts and the curry sauce that are all essential ingredients in the life of our college and, without one of these, our curry would not taste the same. It is in this incredibly extensive list that our school has earned its reputation. It is in diversity that our true strength lies. This ceremony aims to recognise the transition from boys into student leaders as they commence the final stage of their journey through Pius. But, in many ways, I view this ceremony differently. I see this ceremony as an acknowledgement, not of the students at Pius, but of the school itself and

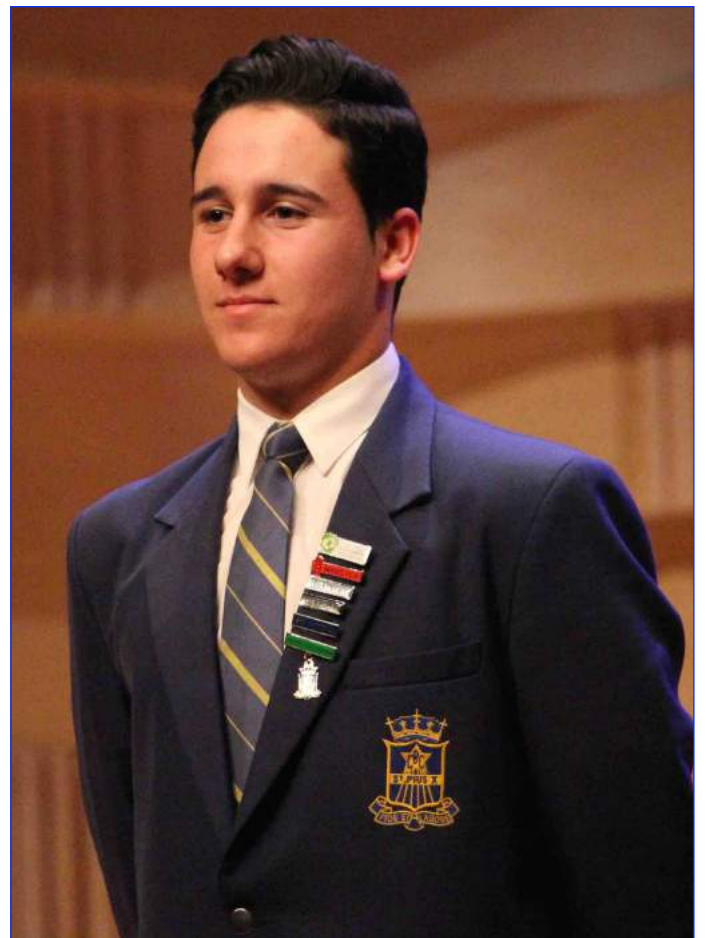
the way in which it shapes our lives. The boys presented to you today are a reflection of the way in which our school community influences its students. Since their arrival at Pius, they have grown and changed positively and they are now young men, ready to encounter the world. International pop sensation Katy Perry once said "there's a spark in you. You've just got to ignite the light and let it shine." As Katy rightfully points out, there is a spark in all of us. But our greatest challenge in life is how we ignite that spark. Well that is what Pius does. In its own unique way, Pius provides countless opportunities to its





students so that they can blossom and, at the end of the day, let their light shine. The result of this is evident in the students presented to you today. A group of individual, unique men ready to take on the challenges of the HSC and share their light with the world. Having grown with these boys, I can assure you that every one of them provides something different and I know that they will lead our college in their own unique, yet effective, way. A fundamental touchstone of St Pius X College is that of 'inclusive community', which is reflected in the equal value placed upon every student at our school. Whether you're an Einstein in the exam room, a Michael Hooper on the sporting field, a Lil' Wayne on the music

stage, a Ron Weasley on the chess board or a Donald Trump in the debating room, Pius always encourages people to do what they love and to do it in the best way that they possibly can, and that is what makes us stand out. As influential hip-hop icon Snoop Dogg would say "If it's flippin' burgers at McDonald's, be the best burger flipper in the world. Whatever it is you do, own your craft." And that is powerful. It is with great honour and privilege that I stand before you today as College captain for the upcoming year. I cannot overstate the immense pride that I take in this position and I am eternally thankful to those who have allowed me to get here. Myself and the rest of the newly elected leadership team





are extremely grateful and we aim to reward the college for allowing us to be in this position. It is most appropriate that we acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the 2016 leadership team and the rest of the graduating cohort, who were able to bring Pius closer together and enhance the culture at our College using their touchstone of 'inclusive community'. They have left a mark on the College that will remain evident in the many years to come. As the newly elected leadership team, we have been left an enormous role to fill but with the involvement of the entire College community, we guarantee that this year will be as successful as the last. I am confident that the boys that you have chosen will work as a successful team and we will do all that we can to enhance life at our college. I am excited for the year ahead and I know that we will do



this great College proud. There are no luckier people in the world than the ones seated in this room. We have all been given amazing opportunities at this college and if we work hard, we can make our lights shine. Cherish every moment

that you have at this school, because you will never experience a place like Pius again. Thank you.

This was the speech given by newly-elected School Captain Joe Unwin at the Year 12 2017 investiture ceremony in the Concert Hall, Chatswood.