

Year 12 Final Assembly 2026 - Principal's remarks

Good morning and welcome to our parents, students, staff ... and on this day, especially, to our Year 12 class of 2026, to your final Year 12 Assembly.

I want to begin today with some thank-yous:

Thank you to our Year 12 parents. For the forgotten lunches and the last-minute dashes to school. For the endless driving, the encouragement, the reassurance and the wisdom. For celebrating every success and helping carry the weight of every setback. For keeping your children grounded in their values and focused on what matters most. Thank you for being their rock when they needed one most.

Thank you to GOAL Mentors ... for being your parents here at school, and your GOAL Group for being family. At school where feeling that you **Belong** is one of our highest aspirations, the GOAL Mentor relationship is our most valued connection and treasured support.

Thank you to all of your teachers ... Those who've taught you in Year 12 and VCE, and those who've guided you all along the way from Year 7.

Thank you to all of our staff who have helped make our college welcoming for all Year 12s, through friendly faces and genuinely interested conversations. And especially for making all of your celebrations happen smoothly.

And finally to our Year 12 performers, from whom we will hear again in a moment, your music has been the soundtrack of our years together. You have carried us away on notes of pure joy.

Year 12s ...

Class of 2026 ...

For one final time, I share with you words you've heard many times over your journey at Beaumaris Secondary College.

*"You **Belong** to a community where to learn is to grow.*

*We **Believe** in our core values of curiosity, optimism, respect and excellence,
and that these values can change the world.*

*You will **Become** your best selves on the journey, and the designers of our future."*

These words are the vision and hope we have for all students at our school. Over your years as a Beauy student you have come to embody this vision and brought to life this hope.

This week, our Vocational Major students gave us a powerful demonstration of this through their Portfolio Presentations. It was a privilege to witness how much you have grown as you shared your learning from school, TAFE and the workplace. With courage, confidence and clarity, you reflected on what VM has meant to you and the future you are creating. You spoke for 30 minutes or more, often without notes, showcasing the outstanding young people you have become. Many of you told us you can't wait to step into the world and make your mark, and we can't wait to see you do it.

And this is the deeper truth of any school journey ...

At their best, schools are not defined by achievement or ATAR rankings, but by learning, growth and **becoming**. Not simply as individuals, but as a community that strives and grows together. Year 12s, you have shaped this community as much as it has shaped you. You have led us with care, and you leave us proud to have known you.

School is a hothouse for growing extraordinary people who will do extraordinary things in our world. That is the path and opportunity ahead of you.

School is also the hothouse for growing people who will do the most important, **ordinary** things. Being a decent human. Being kind. Loving your family and friends. Contributing to your community. Welcoming and including those left out, ensuring that no one is left behind. Day by day, making the world a better place.

The iconic Jane Goodall, who dedicated her life to protecting animals and the environment, taught us that:

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

And so how will you make a difference to the world and what kind of difference will it be?

Three thoughts on that ...

First, and most importantly, **Show up!**

Embrace the habits, routines and behaviours that build the life and world you want. Don't wait for the lightning bolt of inspiration or motivation. Show up for yourself and others, every day. Do those things that will help you and our world be 1% better, every day. Make things better today than they were yesterday; better tomorrow than they are today, **every day**.

Second, know who your people are and **Stay connected**. Who are your allies? Who are the people you can ask for help; the people who will listen to you? When you have problems – as we all do in life – share the problem and let the discussion happen. Maybe it's family, maybe it's friends. Whoever it is, reach out to your people when you need help ... and let them in to help you.

Third, practice **Self-Leadership**. You can do far more than you think you can. The worst toxic trait any person can have is comparing themselves to someone else. You are not

in competition with anyone else. No one can beat you at being you. ***Don't be the best ... be the only!*** The best version of you is more than enough.

To our VCE Students who are approaching exams, I encourage you to take these three thoughts into the coming weeks ...

Next week, these moments of celebration will have moved on, and your focus will have shifted back to preparation for your exams. It is up to you to recognise this, to ***show up for it***, and to deeply engage in it.

Stay connected to the advice and guidance of your teachers. Take advantage of the opportunities to come in and prepare with teachers and classmates. Be intentional, focussed and productive. Practice, practice, practice. Your teachers will have stressed to you that practice questions, and getting feedback on your answers, is the most valuable way to study.

And practice ***Self-leadership*** ... stay present in the moment and in control of what you need to do – what you are going to do – to best prepare to be your best self. When each exam is done, let it go, and shift your focus to the next one. Don't dwell long on however you felt you went in the last exam. Be present in preparing for the next.

When your final exam is done, be able to say:

"I gave it my best.

I gave myself my best chance."

And then, whatever your results may be, know that you are so much more than your study scores; your value and worth is far greater than your ATAR.

Your life is a journey of you becoming your best self, and the journey isn't just to arrive at a destination. The journey is the point of it all.

Our school is a great school. Our place is highly valued and deeply embedded in the Beaumaris community. And this is because of the students who come here and who are such wonderful members of our wider community.

This is because of you.

You have made our school an even better place. Your legacy is your contribution to our school being a dynamic and welcoming place, where everybody can make – and take – their place in the world.

You will always **Belong** to this community.

We **Believe** in you.

We know you are **Becoming** your best self.

I can't wait to see you take your place in the world. I can't wait to see what you do next!

Year 12s ... congratulations ... thank you ... and farewell.