

2022 COLLEGE JUSTICE CAPTAIN SPEECH

College Justice Captain, Yasmin Pitisano

Good morning Sr Mary, Mr Di Camillo, Ms Lennon, special guests, staff and fellow students,

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break and I would like to welcome you all to the 2022 academic year! I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Year 7s who are now beginning this amazing journey at Academy.

It is with great honour that I stand before you all today, as the Justice Captain, in Academy's 165th year. Over the past 165 years, Academy has grown more than any would have believed possible in 1857. Despite so many changes, our proudly held traditions and mercy values are still flowing stronger than ever, here now.

Even though it's only been a few days into Term 1, so far I have been overwhelmed by the amount of mercy values that I have seen shown towards myself and others. Whether it be Year 7's deciding on the groups to join, or simply a smile between students passing in the hallway. Academy's irreplaceable core mercy values are shining already.

We all have a major role to play in advocating for change. The Justice Group which is led by two extraordinary teachers, Mrs Glenister and Ms Moran, is an excellent opportunity for everyone to voice their opinions, as our individual ideas will never be a match with what a group of us could create together. We raise awareness on social issues such as people seeking asylum, people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence and poverty. If you think you might be interested in learning about political and social issues in our world, and making new friends along the way, you are most welcome to attend our first meeting this Thursday at lunchtime in Whyte 2.1.

We have a very exciting term ahead, filled with fun activities, which will raise awareness for Project Compassion. Each one of us has the power to implement change and truly make a difference.

You may also be interested in the FIRE Carrier group, which is the acronym for, Friends Igniting Reconciliation with our Indigenous Australians through Education. In this group, we have laid strong foundations in our school community to build respect, understanding and knowledge of our shared story that started in this rich land 60,000 years ago and continues today.

Additionally, Earth at Academy, led by the amazing Ms Prendergast, is another group that you can join which promotes environmental awareness, climate change and sustainability through a range of exciting activities and discussions. You can find updates and meeting times for all these wonderful groups online, on the Simon bulletin. If you have any questions, please feel free to see either myself, Mrs Glenister or Ms Moran.

Whilst the global pandemic has separated us, it has not stopped the Academy Community's vision for us to reconnect as fellow human beings. Thus, our college theme for this year is 'Together in Mercy' as the pandemic has taught us how to connect virtually, but many of us have lost the sense of community and belonging that is inherently cultivated through in-person, face-to-face interactions.

With respect to our college theme of 'Together in Mercy', I am looking forward to the Justice Group along with the whole school community, making the Rerum Novarum Awards submission a reality this year! We will be creating strong relationships and connecting Academy and Sacred Heart Primary School students through bonding activities.

So, I invite all of you this year, to seize every opportunity you are given, to grow, refine and learn new skills. Together, with your peers, your friends, your teachers and the Academy community, you can leave a legacy that you can be proud of, and become the person you hope to be tomorrow, today.

I leave you with a quote from Catherine McAuley, 'The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.'

Thank you, have a lovely Term 1 and looking forward to seeing you around and at the Justice Meetings!