

VALEDICTORY SPEECH

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Bunurong land on which we gather today, and pay my respects to elders past, present (and emerging). I also extend that respect to all Aboriginal people present today.

Standing here tonight, I feel incredibly lucky that we started our journey at KSC together. I can vividly remember meeting 7C for the first time. I had the privilege of being greeted by the fresh faces of Riley, Erin, Macka, Tarkwyn, Lachie, Matt and Bailey every morning. Year 7 camp allowed some amazing bonds to be established and maybe this was the start of a budding romance between the likes of Tarkwyn and Macka.

In this same year, the Mitchard twins proved their dominance in the 100m sprint, while Alex and Ellie showed us they were destined to be leaders. Matt O'Neill and Emily Gardner were most consistent in coming to school late and got even better at this in Year 12! I don't know how that is possible.

Sharna and Taleiya have finally learnt (almost) to reign in their language choices, although they would have successfully funded a few international trips of mine if I had a swear jar. It has been amazing to watch Matt Slattery improve his coordination, he is no longer the clumsy Year 7 we all remember. Jay and Corey continued to go from strength to strength with their sporting prowess and always stayed humble along the way – don't change this boys!

From having three Bailey's in one class in Year 7, to three Mia's in Year 12, there is always a Mia somewhere for anyone to seek wise advice from. Both Mia's Bs have thrived this year in their VCAL pathway, alongside Elisha and Miah Stark – wow! What an inspiration you have been to us all this year. Overcoming one of the biggest challenges you will face in your life.

Sione has truly allowed his weirdness to shine this year, whilst Pat has successfully carried the title of class clown from Year 7. Jai might not have enjoyed remote, but you should be proud of yourself for getting through this year. We can't wait to watch Grace dominate the football field, she has paved the way for younger girls and will continue to be an inspiration for many. Likewise, Evan will be a cricketing star and we can't wait to watch you succeed. Mitch and Keeley were able to bring out the best in each other in the last 18 months and both will be hugely successful in their chosen fields.

Clare, Jade Wilson and Jaz showed that quiet determination will get you through challenges, whilst Abby has thrived this year and has shown future students that anything is possible when you put your mind to it. I will miss the cooking skills of both Jade Butler and Emilee Row as we were lucky to receive many treats along the way from these two.

You were joined along the way by Lynesse, Victoria, Courtney, Georgia, Jaxon and Chez, and what an asset to KSC each of you were! The stubbornness that Victoria and Lynesse possess will weirdly be something I might miss! Courtney's confidence has soared this year, whilst Jaxon and Georgia have allowed their creativity to flow and show us what they are truly capable of. We miss Chez here tonight – it feels odd to celebrate you all without the vibrancy and positivity of Chez standing in front of us!

Looking back you must have kept me somewhat sane in my 2nd year of teaching as I am still here today loving teaching you all as much as I did then. Over the years you have faced challenges and triumphs, but none more so than your senior years of schooling. I have never been prouder than watching you all have such fun in your last few days of school. To me this was a significant milestone, because finally you were able to celebrate together as a group. You deserve tonight to be something special and I can't wait to bump into each of you in the future.