

Term Three Assembly, 2026 - Principal's Remarks

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful break and have returned refreshed, recharged, and ready for the opportunities that Term 3 will bring.

At any time in our lives, for any given moment, there are at least three vantage points, three different ways of seeing the same moment.

The first is seeing it in the moment itself. Being fully present in the life we are living right now.

And right now, we find ourselves at the beginning of a new term. We are returning from holidays, starting again, and stepping into the second half of the school year. We are balancing school, work, sport, friends, family, freedom, responsibility, and all the opportunities and challenges that come to all of us.

The second vantage point is looking at this moment from the past.

Think back six months ago. Twelve months ago. Perhaps even six years ago ... something our Year 12s might do as you enter your final semester.

Looking forward into this time, what did you imagine it would be like?

What hopes did you have? What goals did you set? What kind of student, friend, daughter, son, musician, artist, sportsperson, leader, or human did you hope to become?

And then there is the third vantage point.

Looking back.

One day, you will look back on this year, this semester, this term ... this moment.

When you do, will you recognise the opportunities that were presented to you?

Will you be proud of how you responded to them?

Will you be satisfied with the effort you gave?

Or will there be things you wish you had done differently?

The answer to those questions is not determined by what happened yesterday. It is determined by the choices you make from today onwards.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

The future you hope for is not something that simply happens to you. It is something you build through the decisions you make every day.

The first half of the year has given all of us lessons.

The second half gives us the chance to use them.

"We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience."

As we reach this halfway point of the year, take a moment to reflect on how far you have come. Celebrate your achievements. Learn from your challenges. Remember that the halfway mark is not a measure of where you will finish. It is simply an opportunity to reset your goals, strengthen your habits, and recommit to your learning.

The story of your year will not be written by how you started.

It will be written by how you choose to finish.

As the saying goes, **"It is not where you start, but where you finish that counts."**

So let me offer a message to each year level.

Year 7

You are now settled into our school. What may have seemed unfamiliar at the beginning of the year is now becoming home.

This is the time to understand what it means to be a Beaumaris student. To aspire for excellence in everything you do, and to strive each day to achieve it.

Year 8

In the coming weeks, you will begin exploring course selection possibilities and the pathways available to you next year.

This is an exciting time.

You will have opportunities to think about your interests, your strengths, and the areas of learning that inspire you. Be curious. Be open-minded. Explore the possibilities. Most importantly, be prepared to **carve your own path**. Your future does not need to look exactly like anyone else's.

Year 9

For many of you, the question of selecting a Unit 1-2 subject for next year is becoming increasingly real.

As you reflect on those choices, think carefully about what you enjoy, what you are good at, and where your future aspirations may lead you. Your Morrisby testing and interviews will provide valuable insights as you begin making these important decisions.

Year 10

You are preparing to make decisions about your VCE program.

This is truly a moment full of possibility and opportunity.

The choices ahead deserve thoughtful consideration, but they should also be approached with excitement. Good luck as you explore your options and make decisions that will help shape the next stage of your learning journey.

Year 11

The second half of Year 11 is about building the platform for Year 12.

There are exciting events ahead and exciting plans to make. At the same time, this is an important period of preparation.

Your challenge is to balance those opportunities while continuing to achieve your personal best in your learning. The foundations you lay now will benefit you greatly in the future.

Year 12

And finally, our Year 12 students.

There are just 55 school days remaining until we gather back in this space to farewell you as Beaumaris students before your final preparations for examinations begin.

Fifty-five days.

The question is simple:

What will you do with them?

Fifty-five days to learn. Fifty-five days to improve. Fifty-five days to support one another. Fifty-five days to create memories. Fifty-five days to become the best version of yourselves.

You do not need to be the best today.

You simply need to be better than yesterday.

Success grows from consistent effort, not occasional perfection.

Every challenge you have faced has prepared you for what comes next.

Reflect. Reset. Refocus. Renew your efforts.

Before I finish, I want to acknowledge something that every student at Beaumaris contributes to.

Through our school tours, Open Night, the Arts Festival, through what families see on our social media, and perhaps most importantly through what they see of you in the wider community, families develop an impression of our school.

What convinces them that Beaumaris is the right place for their child is not simply our buildings or programs.

It is you.

Your character. Your behaviour. Your kindness. Your achievements. The way you represent yourselves and our school.

Families see in you the qualities they hope for in their own children, and they see a school that can help those qualities grow.

That is why I am delighted to share that next year we are fully enrolled at Year 7.

This is a tremendous endorsement of our school, our teachers, our staff, and of you as students and young people.

Thank you for the contribution you make every day to our community.

There is an Indigenous Australian saying that I would like to finish with today:

"The elder's wisdom is not for looking back. It is for carrying forward."

As we begin this new term, let us carry forward the lessons we have learned, the opportunities we have been given, and the aspirations we have for the future.

Challenge yourself.

Support one another.

Keep moving forward.

And let the second half of the year be the time when you strive to become the very best version of yourself.

Thank you, and have a successful and positive Term 3.