Good morning staff, students, parents and a very big shout out to Koonung's Year 12 cohort of 2022.

You've made it!! It's funny over the past few weeks you've been consistently hearing about all the last things you'll be doing in your Koonung journey. Well today is officially your last assembly, your last day, and the last chance to all be together as a school group. Wow!! Well done you've made it.

Now the exams mark the last hurdle you need to jump. But whilst we've been talking about all these "last times"

It really is only a stop on your journey through life.

The foundations of school and lessons we learn along the way have helped you prepare you for the next stage – your adult life.

Each and every one of you are about to embark on your own exciting path! And the best thing about it everyone's path will lead in different directions, however you will all still be connected through the experiences of your time at Koonung. Now this thought can be daunting but try to look at is as a wonderful opportunity to further test yourselves out in the open world and become the person you have always strived to be.

We learn to come to school on time – in the real world we need these skills to keep our jobs.

We learn to wear our uniform with pride – that too helps us in our professional careers.

At Koonung we show respect to others

We collaborate with peers

We strive for excellence, and we have all learnt how to show resilience over the last few years in ways we weren't expecting.

All of these skills shape the people you are and have helped form the building blocks for your own personal journey.

I truly hope you look back on your memories of Koonung fondly. The friends you have made, the opportunities you have had. The laughs and the tricky challenges you have overcome.

Some of those memories will be with you forever. Those sporting teams you were a part of, the school musical you starred in, the lunchtime activities, school camps, leadership opportunities and the teachers you met along the way. You grew up here!

My advice to you over this exam period is

Past results show that doing practice exams help, studying without distractions helps. Asking your family for help when you need it. It might be simply asking someone to quiz you on your upcoming exam or to put in a friendly request for a favorite meal to help fuel your body the night before a big exam.

This is your final quarter - your teachers, friends and family have delivered their final address, they have been your biggest supporters throughout this journey and have now and always will be there for you! But now it's over to you. You're holding your future in your hands, and you are the only person who has to look in the mirror and say to yourself that you gave it your all, so go out and do it.

I hope you all enjoy the Valedictory Dinner, an event for all students in the room to look forward to. A night to get dressed up and celebrate with your families and teachers and the wonderful achievement of graduating secondary school.

I introduced myself to many of you whilst you were in Grade 6 at primary school and then again when you arrived on campus for your first day of Year 7. At the start of this year you were Year 12 students and now I'm incredibly proud to bid you farewell and wish you the best of luck as young adults. Global citizens we are proud of!

**Allira Howe** 

**Director of Learning: Senior School**