

2024 Principal's Address

I'd like to begin by firstly thanking Fr James for celebrating our Opening College Mass as St Aloysius College with us today and also for his wonderful support during the past few years in the transition of our College.

I also extend a thank you to our special guests for their attendance today, being with us on this very important occasion in the history of our College. Most importantly I welcome our High Achieving students from 2023 and their families and friends.

Just before we recognise these students, could I welcome our new year 11 students and families...as well as ...a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and to the many parents here celebrating this wonderful occasion.

Thank you all for the privilege of the Lasallian care of your daughter or son to our College on their learning journey at our College.

TODAY marks a special day in our College's history as we shift from a Years 11 and 12 senior secondary college to a Years 7 - 12 Coeducational College. A College that continues the tradition of a close association with our Parish through the life of St Aloysius - patron saint of youth and our Charism through its association with St John Baptist De La Salle. We now have the ability to immerse students in high quality Catholic education from year 7.

Also today we importantly recognize and celebrate the HIGH ACHIEVEMENT of 2023, the commitment, hard work, diligence and effort of our students over 13 years of education. In doing so we recognise the efforts of our Primary and Secondary colleagues across our feeder schools namely:

Our Lady of Mercy Burraneer

De La Salle College Caringbah

St Aloysius Primary Cronulla

St Francis De Sales Woollooware

Our Lady of Fatima Caringbah

Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda

We acknowledge and thank your teachers from Kindergarten to Year 10 for their efforts, commitment and care for you. It truly recognises what is doable, what is achievable, what is possible across our Eastern Shire of Catholic Schools.

The HSC results were outstanding...

- NSW School ranking of 126th in the State (a move up of 29 places from last year)
- 440 x Band 5 & 6's,
- 90% of all student results were Band 4, 5 or 6.
- Top ATAR of 99.55
- 52 Students appeared on the Distinguished Achievers list
- 80% courses were above state average

We also had a number of students who completed their HSC and gained VET qualifications and apprenticeships:

- 6 school based apprenticeships across a range of industries including carpentry, early childhood, electrotechnology and real estate.
- 20 students have gained FULL TIME apprenticeships across 2023.

Within VET qualifications attained during the year:

- 39 students - received a certificate 2 for Kitchen Operations
- 21 students received a certificate 2 for Construction pathways
- 5 students received a certificate 2 in Electrotechnology
- 4 students received a certificate 3 in Tourism, Travel & Events
- 2 students received a certificate 2 in Automotive
- 1 student received a certificate 2 in Beauty
- 1 student received a certificate 2 in Plumbing

What are the secrets to our success?

Without a doubt the College has always had a culture of positive student teacher relationships - students inform us through surveys of the genuine care they feel staff have for them while on this senior schooling journey.

Delving deeper we know it includes:

- Setting high academic standards for all students in all subjects
- Providing Quality Teaching - ensuring where possible to minimise disruptions
- Being able to provide regular constructive feedback (not just during assessment time)

- Putting processes in place for students to action feedback specifically by redoing and resubmitting parts of questions
- Close monitoring of student performance via Data tracking
- Conducting performance conversations with students during years 11 and 12.

Our focus always at St Aloysius is to provide the foundations for assisting students within the next chapter of their lives.

And, of course, we acknowledge your families – for their love and support throughout this entire journey.

Actions define a school culture as they determine the decisions that are made and the relationships that are formed.

As a Lasallian College our culture is strengthened and supported by our characteristics underpinned by the Five Core Lasallian Principles...

- Faith in the Presence of God,
- Concern for the poor and Social Justice,
- Respect for ALL persons,
- Inclusive Community
- and most importantly, Quality Education.

To our Year 12 cohort of 2023, you represent the best of what we seek and aim for in this faith and learning community. Your example of excellence is exemplified in what you all have achieved. You are acknowledged today because of hard work, belief and faith in what was possible.

Should our current students sitting here today have the opportunity..... today or during this year,I encourage you to ask our students some advice or tips on some of the key areas you focussed upon including:

- Your level of attendance,
- Your study routine,
- Your use of the College Learning Centre or Cronulla Library or how you set up a personal study space at home;
- The relationships you formed with teachers to help clarify content, provide feedback to seek to improve,
- How important it was to submit additional essay/HSC practice questions, do an extra rehearsal or work on the major work ...consistently complete homework and keep up to date with study notes.

Ask them:

Who was the teacher, their mentor, family friend they sought out to assist them in navigating that assessment task or exam

Or maybe:

the teacher, the parent, the friend, the visit to the College Counsellor who inspired them or provided that bit of a boost when things were not so good.

Collectively over a 2 year period how important it was to be in class each and every day...being on time to class after recess and lunch...completing that little bit of extra work most students don't complete...

TO THE CLASS OF 2023, your efforts have enhanced our De La Cronulla/St Aloysius culture. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents, for sharing your leadership. Your presence today is valued and acknowledged. You have left a most wonderful legacy for all to follow, but particularly as we welcome our first year 7 cohort to our College.

IN CONCLUSION:

To our current Years 7, 11 and year 12 STUDENTS PRESENT HERE at Church today, you carry the same light, you are the Leaders of this community; to set the example - to maturely carry our light; embrace our patron saint - St Aloysius live out the Lasallian Core Principles through your actions. No matter what HSC pathway you may be on:

- work hard,
- compete in everything that you do here at school...NO Excuses.....
- Be positive and be a person that wants to constantly improve in what they do and know

Ensure you leave time each and every day to pray and allow Jesus Christ into your life. Be the best person you can be.

- ARE YOU READY? ...READY to accept this challenge?

For our High Achievers we wish you all the best in the next stage of your pathway in life. We will pray for you as we do for all of our ex-students as they seek to make their mark in the world. And finally, in the words of St John Baptist De La Salle:

"Do not have any anxiety about the future.

Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you."

Thank you