

YEAR 12

Teacher Messages

Dear Year 12's,

Firstly, you all deserve a huge amount of credit and praise for the manner in which you have handled the extreme challenges of this year and last. What can you take from this? What do you make of this?

I guess time will tell on both of those big-picture questions.

As a starting point, your teachers this year (and some from previous years) have wanted to communicate with you their brief messages of support, encouragement, wisdom and reflection.

Please accept these messages in the manner in which they have been formulated – a whole lot of caring, experienced, reflective, remote-learning weary teachers reaching out to the students whom they admire and respect and want desperately to succeed.

I wish you all the very best over these final steps of your VCE journey.

MR JOHN ROBERTS

I know it sounds cheesy, but I really believe you need to be the hero of your own disaster movie this year! Just like the hero, you need to take control of what you can control, deal with any plot twists that come your way, look after yourself and the people around you and triumph in the end!

KATE LEAUMONT

I have seen a lot of year 12s go through the school, but none have had to deal with what you have. You have dealt with a situation that few ever have and few ever will. There have been rough times along the way but for most of the time you have shown your care and resilience, empathy and application and that has made you stand out for me. When I think of the cohort of 2021 it will be with pride and admiration. I hope that in the last few weeks you come to be proud of yourselves the way the school is.

LYNETTE SMITH

When all this is over, and it will be over one day, you can reflect on how you have survived one of the strangest periods in human history. It's actually very cool that they'll write about it one day! Remember you are more than a score or a certificate. Push on though and remember your friends, your teachers, your cranky coordinators and laugh at the absurdity of it all. Life is still beautiful if you want it to be :)

JONATHAN DAVIES

Hi there everyone. You have managed to work through some of the most trying conditions in order to complete Year 12 (and Year 11) - well done to you. You need to remember all the good moments of 2021 and 2020 and think, we did this, we can do anything! A number does not define you, what you do with your education from here is what will define you, who you are and who you want to be, so go out there and be the best you that you can be - the world is now open to you (soon!)

PAUL BASFORD

When the going gets tough, the tough barrack for Collingwood? No, seriously, it's amazing how lucky you get when you just work hard, so just keep working as hard as you can manage until the final siren. The relief of the finish line being hit is that much sweeter when you know that you have given it your best shot in the face of adversity. If a free kick goes against you, just put it behind you, all that matters is the next contest. You can do it, if you've given your best effort then the result takes care of itself, including your emotional wellbeing.

RICHARD POULTON

Amazing humans! You're at the end of the race, just one last sprint and you're done! You should be proud of your efforts this year. Despite the setbacks, you are still here, turning up and giving it a go. Well done. Nothing worthwhile is easy and what you will have gained after your many years at school is certainly meaningful. It helps to keep your eye on the big picture. Stay with it, trust in your abilities and embrace the bright future ahead of you. I am so proud of all that you are and all that you will be.

GIULIA CATALANO

Know that your teachers care about you, they want you to succeed and you will succeed. Be strong, work hard. There isn't long to go - we're almost to the finish line.

BETTY PARAS

这一年是难忘的特别的一年，看到你们的努力和进步为你们高兴。希望大家开开心心地度过最后一阶段，相信你们是最棒的！祝每位同学考试顺利！

LI LIN

Life brings many challenges, it is how we deal with challenges that define who we are. I have seen you rise in this challenging time. You got this!

JOHN RAINBOW

To think what you have endured over the course of your VCE will go down in history. You will look back on these challenging times and remember the level of resilience and determination you showed to make it to the end. The finish line is in sight- go hard and give it everything you have. We all believe in you and are here with you each step of the way!

CASSANDRA CAPUTI

It is when "our back is against the wall" that we find out how strong we are. Watching the recent paralympics had me in awe watching those athletes never give in, no matter how hard it got. So my message to you is, the finish line is within view, everything hurts BUT now is not the time to throw in the towel! And remember VCE is not the end, it is only the start of the rest of your life. Go for gold!

LEONIE BETTIOL

If you were asked 5 years ago 'where do you see yourself in 5 years?' did you think the answer would have been doing year 12 from home in trackies and pjs! Each of you can safely say you have tried your best, gone with the flow, shown resilience, excellence, curiosity and been there for your mates. Well done for what you have managed to achieve so far, and this is just the beginning of the amazing and exciting life ahead.

EBONY PHAM

Always remember you're smarter than you think. I've had the pleasure of watching you all improve and grow and I know you can do it! Just remind yourself, especially in times that you don't, 'Ms Gomes believes in me'.

JENNA GOMES

In what has been the most difficult year under challenging circumstances, you are nearly at the end of your high school journey. "Keep going, because you did not come this far just to come this far". Dig deep and give your best effort for a bit longer. Reach out if you need anything, we are here.

SALLY POLIDANO

Wow what a year! It probably feels really tough right now, which is ok, just remember. "Things work out best for those that make the most of how things work out." All you can do is your best and you might feel like it's not good enough sometimes, but trust me it is! One day we'll look back at this and think "how on earth did we do that?!" Let's hope that day is very soon.

EMILY MATHEWS

Always the VCE English teacher ... Hitchcock said "What is drama after all but life with the dull bits cut out". What has been your VCE Covid experience? Life with the dull bits left in and the drama cut out! Take heart in the resilience you have shown over the last eighteen months, and especially in Year 12. The end is almost in sight and be proud of your achievements. We are! Remember: "A character is defined by the kind of challenges he cannot walk away from." Arthur Miller. Stand strong and face those exams with your head held high!

AMANDA BROXHAM

Challenges are part of everyday life and if you are going to be hard on yourself for times of adversity, then you must give yourself praise too for equality. Well done for what you have achieved so far, the finish line is around the corner!

BRANDON WOOD

This is the final sprint and you are almost there. In a few weeks this will all be over. It won't matter what your teachers think, it won't matter what your friends or your parents think, but it will matter what you think about how you have handled this difficult situation. If you can look yourself in the eye and honestly say that you have done the best you could, then you will be at peace, and everything else will fall into place. Good luck! You can do it.

MARTIN BUCHHOLTZ

I am consistently impressed at challenges you rise to and the way in which you have overcome obstacles. You have taken online learning in your stride and adapted quickly to rapidly evolving situations, displayed grit and determination to tackle mountainous tasks. You have got this. You can do it.

GENE EASTON

You are amazing people. You have shown remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. While you may stumble sometimes in life, remember nothing is impossible to a willing heart. Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not something to be waited for, but rather something to be achieved. I look forward to seeing who of you changes the world first. Thank you for who you are! You make the world more beautiful!

SIENNA CUNNINGHAM

To all of you who I have taught over the past couple of years, thank you for being respectful and letting me have the opportunity to get to know you as both learners and unique individuals. The best thing about you all is you. Don't change your personality to try and fit a mould, continue to be yourselves, draw on your strengths and you can all achieve your dreams. Be kind to each other, look after your friends, family and the planet, the world's future is now in your hands. Good luck.

JUSTIN BOND

I am in awe of how you guys sign in to Teams and join meetings day after day in remote learning, and how eager you are to have a chat with the teachers and even to ask how we are doing as well. Your cohort will be written in history books for how resilient and courageous a bunch of VCE students you were as we know it isn't an easy task to get up and do what you have to do in this lockdown. It's just the final lap ahead of you and I am sure you will smash it in the best possible way you never thought you were ever capable of! You can do this guys!

INDRANI MAHANAMA

I know it seems like the weeks ahead are the most daunting of your life, but here's the secret - you've done the hard work already. As you face the challenge ahead, think for one moment about the hurdles you've already overcome - remote learning, remote SACs, missing friends, missing alarms, navigating the temptations of Netflix and apparently a little pandemic thrown in for good measure. You've done it - you've faced adversity and have come out the other side, so take a breath and know that whatever life throws at you next (like VCE exams) is nothing! Just another step in the wonderful journey of your life. We're proud of you all for the way you've come through these hard times, and are here with you every step of the way.

SCOTT COPEMAN

You have all shown such resilience and hard work this year. You've gone through periods of interrupted face to face learning, snap lockdowns that turned into weeks, remote SACs and remote learning. Your adaptability is an invaluable life skill. All the best for your upcoming exams, I am proud to be your teacher and to go through this together with you all.

JULIANA PANG

Always cherish your memories of where you were and who you were with when facing drastic events such as this past year. Our class is an excellent example of a disparate group of people who pulled together, supported each other, shared creative ideas and never let their mates fail; even while competing with them for high marks. You are champs and I'll fondly remember all of you as you forge ahead with your futures! Best of luck!

JANET PRICE

Well done for turning up when you wanted to shut down and still managing to have a laugh during the never ending lockdown lows. You have had a VCE like no other and should be very proud of your resilience. Keep looking after yourselves and each other.

ANGIE FUSINATO

Well done on a getting to where you are today..... The unpredictability of this year has been tough, but you are all still here. Remember that the challenges that life throws at us help us to grow and learn life long skills. You will be able to reflect on these years and the adversity you were able to overcome. Continue to focus on the process and your pathway will sort itself out. Most of all continue to prioritise looking after your wellbeing and being with the loved ones around you.

TIM BOURKE

You have all done an incredible job over the last two years and you should all be proud of yourselves. Resilience is a school value that you have been taught since Year 7 but I think you have all taught us about being resilient. You have all continuously come to class and tried your best even when you haven't wanted to. Even when at times we have been living with so much uncertainty you have all pulled through and supported each other. Good luck with your exams and the future ahead.

ALISON BILLINGTON

The word 'unprecedented' is an understatement to what you have endured in the final years of your schooling. Know that, whatever score you receive at the end of the year, you still have the rest of your life to live and that 'rest of your life' starts when you walk out of your final exam. I am incredibly proud of you for your commitment and you should also be incredibly proud of your achievements. Continue to work hard as we head into the home stretch and we are all here to support you up until the very end.

GULCAN TARISAI

Ciao ragazzi, quest'anno e' stata una bellissima avventura anche se, come tutte le avventure, ha avuto delle belle sfide. Ma voi siete forti e determinati per cui avete continuato a lavorare bene senza spaventarvi. Spero che vi sentiate molto orgogliosi dei vostri traguardi con l'italiano.

Non e' facile imparare una lingua straniera e voi quest'anno avete fatto dei passi da gigante! Bravi.

PAOLA MALATESTA

No one will deny that this year has not been what you would have expected or indeed what you would have wanted for your final year of school. In spite of this you have forged ahead and risen to the challenge. Never forget that you are more capable and better prepared than you probably think you are. We all have faith in you and you now need to back yourself for this final lap knowing that we will support you every step of the way. Good luck for the exams and all the wonderful things that lay ahead for you.

KAREN BOYLE

You have proven to yourself so many times this year that you CAN do hard things. You are doing them every day. There is a saying "People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it." Don't let yourself be that person interrupting your path to getting it done. "What do you do? You push through"

JANE DENTON

So who said you couldn't use oil paint in the lounge room? You showed them! (I hope your parents forgive me). Your hard work and dedication, your ability to think creatively- when perhaps you didn't quite feel like it but pushed through anyway- is an inspiration to us all and I am so very proud of you. Best of luck for your exams and whatever lies beyond.

REBECCA PARKER

Well done you have done more than survive you have achieved amazing things through these unprecedented times. Now as you approach your exams believe in yourselves, like we believe in you, and keep up all the hard work, the finish line is nearly there. But remember one thing you won't be defined by an atar score, or a study score, or your VCE. You have your entire lives ahead of you, so use the skills and resilience that you have developed to achieve everything you want, because I know that you can and will.

AARON MAYES

You have all demonstrated remarkable resilience, perseverance and positivity in these unprecedented times and you should all be immensely proud of yourselves, as we are of you. You have borne the brunt of lockdown more than any other group and it has been very challenging, however there is light at the end of the tunnel. You have done the work in preparation for the exams and with the support of your family, your teachers and your friends you can achieve your goals. Aim high!

STEVE HOFFMAN

I have been blown away with the amount of resilience and perseverance the 2021 Year 12s have shown this year. You have survived and proven that you can get through challenging situations (while still having a laugh) a skill that will only serve you as you move onto other things in the years to come. Hang in there as you get through these final months and I really hope we can see your physical faces on site again in Term 4 - I have missed them!!!

AMY NETTELBECK

As time passes, you'll slowly forget about the challenges of online learning and the stresses of this year will pass too, but I hope you remember how you supported each other through the struggles and achieved more than you probably thought possible; these are life skills that will be invaluable as you move forward beyond school. We are so proud of you all!

TIARNE NEWTON

To say that you have had the most interesting VCE journey is an understatement. Yet, through all the challenges that you have faced, you have managed to keep going with a smile on your face. The resilience and maturity that you have shown is something to be admired and will bring you far in life. I am very proud of each one of you and count myself blessed to have been able to walk this journey with you. "Always remember that your present situation is not your final destination. The best is yet to come."

KENJI CHEW

To the Class of 2021. I bet you didn't think it would be like this... Two pretty tough years to end your time at EDSC wasn't what you signed up for but you've done it, you are through (well almost). Reflecting on the last 18 months, it is easy to think of the things we have missed out on. We all do that at times and it makes us angry, this is a pretty normal response. The true test is how we bounce back from this experience and I can safely say that you have been and will be, the most resilient group of students to pass through our doors. Look back upon your time at EDSC with fondness, don't focus on this blip in time. It will pass. Remember the good times you had at school, the friendships you've made, the fun things you did and use your positive experiences at EDSC to help you face the exciting challenges yet to come. Good luck and well done Year 12s.

CAMERON CAMPBELL

To paraphrase my favourite quote - you can only do what you can, with what you have, where you are. You guys are so resilient! Just focus on what you can control.

KERRYN MURRAY



Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of EDSC. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. We were born to make manifest the glory that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

KLINT WHITE

Focus; the state or quality of having or producing clear visual definition.
Endurance; the capacity of something to last or to withstand wear and tear.
Commitment; the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause.
Goals; the object of a person's ambition or effort.
Fulfillment; the achievement of something desired, promised or predicted.
Winner; one that is successful especially through praiseworthy ability and hard work.
Dear students. You have displayed many of the above interpretations over the last 2 years. Remember, when you are focused and committed to a goal, your endurance will lead you to the fulfillment which makes you the winner that you are. Good luck everyone.

DORA VERROCCHI

What a unique and challenging year that has unfolded! I hope you are all proud of what you have accomplished, please know that I believe in all of you. I will miss teaching our wonderful class. Kia kaha, EA2!!

BRENDA JAMES

Dear students, you are now SO close to the end of this marathon, and now your job is just to stay on the course right to the end. You have learnt and grown and endured and celebrated this year, and you will take it with you to all of your future challenges and successes. We are all so proud of you. We know that your academic results do not define you - that just getting to this stage is a massive achievement. Now go get done what you need to get done!

NAOMI CREELMAN

You guys are great! You are ambitious and focused. I love teaching each of you and answering all your questions. Your final year of secondary school is coming to an end. Enjoy the last part and make it memorable! All the best!

EMMA LIU

You've got this!

KIM SCHWARZ

在这非同寻常的一年里，我有幸同临战高考的你们在一起。我始终相信，每一个成功后面，都有无数的汗水和努力。我也相信，当大家收获成果时，一定会铭记痛并快乐的日子。

BI LIANG ZHANG

"Even in the midst of all life's chaos, you can find peace, you can still find joy." – Dhiman. Year 12s, you have each, under the most extraordinary of circumstances, demonstrated resilience and determination to make it to this point – you did it! We are so impressed and inspired by you all and we congratulate you. Remember to be kind to yourselves, and celebrate all you have achieved. We are proud of you Class of 2021.

EDSC WELLBEING TEAM (MADDIE, MARIA, MICHAEL, LISA E, LISA TI).

I hope you look back on this year with a real sense of pride; proud of yourselves for enduring, for supporting one another, for adapting and exercising such resilience. Whatever happens in the future, regardless of your results or where you're heading, you've already succeeded, because you're good, kind people and that's what truly matters.

JARROD STURNIEKS

In this race to get the best ATARS, get to the Universities we want, to get the courses we want, we forget that what matters is who YOU are as people. Remote learning has challenged each and every one of us in different ways but I know it has shown you what you can get through, what you can overcome and you have all done it with compassion and kindness for each other. That is how you want to be remembered - for the person you are, the way you have risen to challenges and most importantly, found the time for others. The results will matter for a while but your legacy must be that you were a friend to someone. And you know that you have us to be there for you - now and beyond EDSC. Just a bit more guys and then, be proud that you have done what most adults cannot even begin to fathom.

JASVINDER KAUR