



2024 Year 12 Graduation Assembly speech

Good morning Year 12 students, parents, and staff,but also a very special welcome, a first in the history of our collegeto our year 7 students - here to celebrate and support our Year 12 graduating class...(and what a fantastic year you are having year 7!!!)

Thanks so much to Jon for his welcome of our special guests and I sincerely thank you also for being with us today... As we come together to mark the end of another year, I want to start by acknowledging what a significant moment this is. For our Year 12 students, it's not just the end of the school year, but the conclusion of your time here at our school under the banner of De La Salle Catholic College Cronulla—a place that, I hope, has shaped you in ways that will resonate throughout your lives.

To our Year 12 Students:

I hope that you are proud to have been educated in a Lasallian Catholic school, a school that is more than just a place of academic learning, but a community grounded in values that reach far beyond the classroom. Here, you have experienced an education characterised by:

- Our *Catholic values* and the strength of *personal relationships* we build with one another,
- An emphasis on both *academic and vocational excellence*, pushing you to develop your skills and talents fully,
- A focus on *faith formation*, nurturing not just your intellect but also your spirit,
- A deep *respect for the individual*, recognizing the dignity of each person,
- And, importantly, in *actions of service and social justice*, encouraging you to live out your faith in meaningful, practical ways.

As you leave this chapter behind and step into new opportunities—whether that be university, work, or other paths—I urge you to reflect on these principles. Life will undoubtedly become busier, and the world beyond school is filled with exciting possibilities. However, I hope that the demands and distractions of life don't stand in the way of you remaining connected to the core Lasallian values you've learned here.

We hope that you will always strive to live by the principles of:

- *Faith in the presence of God*, knowing that you are never alone, and that God walks with you on every step of your journey,
- A *concern for the poor and social justice*, remembering that the world needs people like you to fight for fairness, compassion, and the dignity of all,
- And *respect for all persons*, regardless of differences, seeing in each individual the image of God.
- I would like to acknowledge the unbelievable efforts of our Year 12 Captains/Vice Captains -Ella Parker, Matthew Hallett, Claire O'Connor and Caleb Bradshawand **all** the student leaders of 2024 throughout the many College eventswhere collectively..... you **all** gave of your time in service to our College.
- Each of you in Year 12....(whether as a student leader or not) have left a lasting legacy for our current year 7 & 11 students to build upon...and I thank you sincerely as a Yr 12 group for doing this.

St Aloysius College Cronulla

2 Cross Road Cronulla NSW 2230 Australia phone 02 8522 1500

email info@stalscronulla.catholic.edu.au



To our Staff:

I cannot thank you enough for the dedication, wisdom, and care you've shown to our students, particularly those here in Year 12. Your guidance has helped them navigate challenges, celebrate achievements, and grow not only as students but as young adults ready to face the world with confidence.

I thank the College Leadership Team of (Mrs Hughes, Mr Cullerton, Mrs Slater, Mrs (MAR)Meagher & Mrs Schipp).....you have all been a wonderful support to Year 12.

Thank you to ...Mrs O'Connor for your efforts with Year 12 students over the past 2 years. You have been like a second mother to all of these students.

To our Parents:

Your role in this journey cannot be overstated. You have been our partners in education, and your support at home has made all the difference. As your children leave school, know that your love and guidance will continue to shape them as they take their next steps into the wider world.

In closing, I encourage you all—students, parents, and staff—to carry forward the spirit of this Lasallian community.

Or in the words from 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..."

May you always be grounded in faith, driven by a sense of justice, and respectful of all people, as we continue to live out the vision of St. John Baptist de La Salle and St Aloysius.

Thank you, and congratulations once again to our Year 12 graduates! We are proud of each and every one of you, and we look forward to seeing the bright futures that await.

God bless.

And always remember

Up Up Cronulla !!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mahoney'.

Stephen Mahoney
Principal