

Year 12 Celebration ASSEMBLY

Thursday 24 September 2020

Principal's Speech

Good Morning everyone.

TODAY

Today is an important day in our academic calendar across the 1850 students and staff that make our PK-12 College.

- We recognise and celebrate the commitment, hard work, diligence and effort of Year 12 students over the last 6 to 14 years of education at Newman College.
- We also celebrate today the right of passage of the leadership of our College as Year 11 students take the baton forward.

Today is a symbol of hope for all of us - of what is doable, what is achievable, what is possible.

COVID-19

In what has been such an uncertain time since the advent of COVID-19, our students and staff have endured a period of constant change, requiring agility and resilience. Across the country we know that there are many Year 12 cohorts not celebrating as we are today. We know that their learning in some cases has been remote for some 20 weeks of this academic year.

In Western Australia, and more specifically in this community, we have been able to as a whole school engage in our learning as we would have pre COVID, and for that we are grateful.

Our Vision for Learning - Shine Through Discovery - *let your light shine* calls upon us to overcome the challenges that life presents. In 2020, Year 12, you have demonstrated over and over again a resilience and a capacity to come together as a cohort to let your light shine. There have been times for some of you individually where you have learnt the hard way as a result of decisions that we all make at some stage in our life which ultimately teach us life lessons. In the main, you have been an example to every other member of our community in this commitment and in the expectations that we all have for ourselves to be authentic recognising the dignity of ourselves and others and how we live our lives today, tomorrow and in to the future.

As you go out and tread your own path there is no doubt that the disruption of this pandemic has had a profound impact on every part of the world. There is an uncertainty about what will be as a result of this disruption. What is important is that we are able to imbue and call upon the spirit that lays within us, grounded in the gospel imperative of faith, of love and more specifically hope.

In recent days, we mourned the loss of a significant global figure, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Judge Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who passed away at the age of 87. Her legacy as one of the great legal minds on our planet was one that was exemplified by a Marist characteristic, love of work. She was an advocate for the individual, the person less well off, the outsider in society; similar to the mission of our Founder St Marcellin Champagnat – where his preference was to be with those who are excluded from the mainstream of society, and those whose material poverty leads them to be deprived.

It is this ethic, underpinned by a humility, that leaves us with the ever open question of how we will live our lives, however large or small, and the contribution we want to make to the transformation of the world in which we live.

Thank you

We acknowledge and thank your teachers - their efforts, commitment and care for Year 12, for those who supported you upon entry into the school all through the last 6 to 14 years at Newman College.

We particularly thank Ms Carla Pastorelli your Leader of Wellbeing; her commitment to this cohort has been unconditional. The love, hope and support she has afforded you has been commendable. Thank you to PCG teachers and all teachers of Year 12. Thank you to our guest speaker, Dana Hooker – West Coast Eagles AFLW player and vice-captain, for your presence here today and the inspiration of your story and your commitment to being the best person that you can be in the dreams and aspirations that you have for yourself.

For Year 12 and all our community today, the heart of who we and what we represent is in how we are present to each other in the relationships that we form, we cultivate, and we celebrate.

Year 12, cherish the witness and fidelity of your Marist education. Being present to each other in service and in love engenders the family spirit that underpins the culture of this school.

Today we give thanks for you..... for your story, your narrative which will be affirmed at your Graduation Mass and Dinner in Week 2 of Term 4.

We wish you every success for your last exam period and the completion of your courses.

Leadership

Finally I would like to acknowledge our Year 11 students and their participation in our Leadership Program for 2021.

- Our Leadership program commenced this term with 50 Year 11 Students. Thank you to Ms Bramanto for your leadership of this program.
- Leadership is about honesty, integrity, confidence, inspiration, delegation, decision making, commitment, accountability, creativity and empathy.
- Christ is at our centre - hope, faith and love.
- What brings us together?

Congratulations to **Matao Owen and Taylah Sadgrove** and all those students who have been selected for leadership. I know that you will let your light shine.

Thank you for the term