

Speech of 2020 College DUX

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Good morning staff and students,

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the other award recipients present and the rest of the year level for their excellent Year 12 results in what seemed to be a particularly temperamental and difficult year.

I want to thank a few people. Mum and dad, for the constant support, love and guidance you've given me and the sacrifices you've made to allow me to do my best. Despite the very loud households, and occasional walk ins to my classes and sacs my siblings have been such great models.

To my year 12 teachers: Ms Cometti, Ms Perera, Ms Wakim, Ms Saad, Ms Davies, and Ms Wicky. Your ability to adapt to online learning this year and dedication to go above and beyond for students was truly remarkable and I cannot thank you guys enough. I've had so many incredible teachers over my time here, so a big thank you to all the staff members for your constant support and hard work towards the Antonine community.

And finally the antonine sisters, Ms Bacash and Sister Mariette: thank you for all the behind the scenes work on running the school; without you guys everything would be impossible.

Year 12 was a very challenging year however I was extremely blessed to be surrounded by dedicated teachers, supportive parents and family and great friends. 2020 was a year full of downfalls in which COVID-19 presented many challenges taking a lot away from our final year of schooling. Despite the fact that we missed out on year 12 celebrations, final assemblies and most importantly spending our last moments with our friends, my year 12 experience taught me to appreciate the little things in life.

Never in a million years would I have thought that I'd be graduating during a pandemic so I advise you all to make the most of your final years of high school, make lasting memories with your friends and never take your schooling life for granted because time really does fly.

Also, I cannot stress this enough; maintaining a balance between school work, personal and social life is so important when approaching Year 12. I in particular had a part time job in which I worked 2 days during the week; attempted to catch up with friends on the occasional weekend, while also making the most of my weekends to catch up on notes and complete practice exams. Your wellbeing is always crucial and the best way to feel good is to take care of yourself. Get out and do sport, yoga or even catch up with your friends.

There was not much to do during lockdown, however immediately after school finished I would go for a walk as a break between studying and felt refreshed and energised to continue studying.

Furthermore, surround yourself with a supportive group of friends that will enable you to reach your goals and fulfil your very own expectations. Nothing is worse than having a group of friends that drag you down in your final year of school and restrict you from doing your very best. I had a small group of friends that would complete practice exams individually and then rekindle to discuss different ways of approaching such questions as well as the answers. This enabled me to look at practice questions from different perspectives and apply such methods to new exam style questions.

Finding a study space and routine that works for you is another key to success. Figure out if you get more done in the library or a desk at home. In most of lockdown I spent majority of my time at a desk. I ensured that I completed my work in an environment I enjoyed going to and successfully accomplished most of my school work. Planning ahead and keeping a schedule can help you find the right time to be productive. By making such a study habit, you'll avoid procrastination and binge-watching a whole TV series.

To the current Year 12s it's so important from now on to stay consistent throughout the whole year. Try not to leave your work till the final minute. It's one year; you'll thank yourself for it later through all the hard work and time you have put into studying.

Also, always seek out to your teachers for advice. At the end of the day they are there to help you and want the very best for you.

My final tip is to never doubt yourself. I am a person in particular that always seemed to doubt myself when it came to handing in sacs and assignments although I gave it my all. It however made me realise that self confidence is so crucial when approaching assignments in order to achieve the very best.

Thank you.