

Good afternoon,

I would like to start by personally thanking:

Mr Chircop;
Ms Chircop;
Mr Stead;
Mr Hurley;
Mrs Di Blasi; and
Ms Breakey.

All of whom played an important role in my successful VCE year. Your guidance and time was much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Salesian College and specifically Principal Brockhus for the opportunities that have been provided to all students.

To the Year 12 class of 2019, no doubt the pressures that lie ahead will leave many of you anxious, but your final year of schooling is an opportunity to set yourself up for the years to come. Decide what you want from the year and work hard to achieve it. Regardless of whether it's an ATAR score, a job, or an apprenticeship - use it to motivate and drive you to achieve.

Everyone experiences stress, and the thought of conflicting commitments and a big work load can sometimes seem too much but you will get through. Seek help from your teachers, your friends, and your family. At the end of the day, all that is important is that that you achieve what you want to. So push through and at the end of year, celebrate your achievements. A three and half month break will more than make up for it.

Whether it's socialising with friends or laughing at Mr Stead's jokes - even if they're only funny 75% of the time - it's important to enjoy yourself. If there's one thing my years have demonstrated it is that there is nothing you can't do with enjoyment. I found a balance that allowed me to get an ATAR higher than I had ever hoped for, while still having a good time.

So my advice is: have fun, make the most of your opportunities, and don't settle for anything less than what you want.

Jack Drever
2018 College Dux (VCE)