



2016 COLLEGE CAPTAIN



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We always dream about the day we would finally graduate, yet in this moment, the emotions of leaving behind the memories, experiences and friendships we have developed is something we don't necessarily want to do. The memories we have created are all unique in their own special way. We have created them with the brothers with whom we stand arm in arm today.

The transformation from boys to young men is not one which takes place overnight, but rather is a culmination of the efforts and beliefs of those around us. The community here at Salesian College has nurtured and fortified our sense of self, equipping us with the necessary tools to fulfil the essence of what it is to truly be a man, a man who stands by his word, a man who respects women, and, above all, a man who knows how to be ‘all things to all’.

Our journey as young men has been guided through the throes of adolescence by dedicated educators and faculty members here at Salesian College. We sincerely thank you all for the unconditional support you have given us throughout our entire journey here at the College. You have shepherded us through our toughest times, you have imbued us with the concept of excellence, and have given us hope when we couldn't find any. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Year 12 teachers this year, who have educated and inspired us

through the toughest period of our studies. You always went above and beyond your roles, and displayed dedication and commitment to ensure that we had the greatest opportunity to achieve success.

Finally, there is one more thank you we would like to say. To Mrs Beurs, our Year Level Coordinator, you have gone far beyond your call of duty. You took time out of your day to deal with our arising issues, and you demanded that each and every one of us boys achieved success. You shared your knowledge and riveting sense of humour to ensure that we could grow to be the best men we could possibly be, and for this we will be forever indebted to you.

We here at Salesian are so privileged to have the chance of undertaking a variety of different activities within the community. If you take nothing away from today, I encourage you to remember these three words: “Have a go”. One of the greatest things I did here at Salesian, was to “have a go”. I ventured out of my comfort zone and participated in a plethora of activities, which has allowed me to become the person I am today. I gained resilience, persistence, confidence and motivation from taking part in these diverse events. I will never regret auditioning for the musical, trialling for sporting teams or applying for leadership positions. They're all just examples of the variety of things that helped me to possess

the qualities I have today. It should never matter if it's not a cool thing to do, or whether it's only something that athletic students or academic students always participate in. It's the opportunities we have at the College which strengthen the culture within the community we so gratefully have. “Be gallant, be great, be gracious and be grateful for the opportunities you have.” An inspiring Jake Bailey said this as School Captain at a Christchurch secondary school. And you know what, he's not wrong. Be grateful for the array of opportunities you have. Use them while you can, because after all, your big opportunity may be right where you are now.

Maya Angelou once said, “You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise”. As I have experienced in my life, this signifies the importance of persevering through life's difficulties. Explore the path untaken and live with courage and honour. My personal trials with Cystic Fibrosis have served as a catalyst for facilitating this sense of self within me. Through the many difficulties that come with fighting a chronic medical condition I have taught myself to turn challenging times into learning opportunities. Life throws its challenges at us constantly, but it's important that we are able to learn from those

opportunities and develop our character.

Anyone can do anything, because anything is possible, and as long as we continue to remember this, we will all get through those dark times, because, after all, it's not about how hard we can hit. It's about how hard we can get hit, and get back up and keep going.

To all my brothers sitting in the front here today, we are the boys of SCC16, and with that comes pride, so embrace it. We have left our mark on this College whilst respecting ourselves in everything we did, striving together to achieve excellence in anything we pursued. For the 6 years of schooling we have spent together, it's been a hell of a ride. We now turn the page in our book of life to the next chapter, one which is filled with uncertainty and anticipation as to what it may hold. I don't know where it goes from here, what the future will hold for you, or for myself, but whichever path you choose, I wish you all the very best with that journey. I am so truly proud of what you have all achieved.

I would like to leave you all with one parting thought. “Do the one thing you think you cannot do. Fail at it. Try again. Do better the second time. The only people who never tumble are those who never mount the high wire. This is your moment. Own it.”

Thank you.

Joshua Knight
2016 College Captain