



# 2018 CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

**Mark Linden**

2018 College Captain



Over my senior years at Salesian College, our school has evolved from a place of learning into a home that has encouraged myself, and many others, to become great men. As I have matured, my appreciation for Don Bosco's philosophies of education, loyalty and care has only continued to grow stronger. It is astounding that one man's actions, originating from a small Italian town in the early 1900s, could play such a crucial role in a young man's life 100 years later. It is truly a profound and humbling legacy to have left behind.

It is this very idea of legacy that drives people to do their work to the best of their abilities. This difficult act of leaving a legacy is often associated with one that produces an exclusively positive change within a community. However, many forget that it is also possible to leave behind an undesirable legacy, one that people look back upon and criticise or hide in shame. As College Captain of the Class of 2018, I strived to ensure that my cohort left a positive legacy at the College, rather than a detrimental one. In my position of leadership I focused on supporting students through proposals to implement improvements to the academic culture within the College. These changes included revision

lectures for the Year 12 students and a website for past students to become accessible as tutors to current students. In addition, as College Captain I strived to accurately represent my cohort and the school, helping others in any way possible. In doing so, I hope I have contributed positively to the College, whilst leaving a memorable legacy on behalf of the Class of 2018.

As a student at Salesian College, one's legacy does not need to start with a position of leadership. Again, harking back to Don Bosco's philosophies, do the "ordinary things extraordinarily well." Completing simple tasks to a high standard can assist in establishing a positive legacy for yourself. Indeed, this is easier said than done. This act is a challenge for everyone, including myself. However, it is one of the most important steps in leaving a memorable legacy at the school. Personally, I found giving things a go and taking advantage of the opportunities Salesian provided was a way in which I could practise this philosophy. Whether I was participating in soccer, hockey or debating, I put in the effort for my team and myself. This theme can further extend to demonstrating compassion in our community through small gestures,



such as donating to charity, volunteering for an event or taking on a social justice cause on behalf of others.

Whether you are a student or not, I encourage everyone to accept this challenge and attempt to perform ordinary tasks "extraordinarily well." In this way you are assisting others within your community, while leaving behind a positive legacy yourself.