



2018 CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

Mark Linden

2018 College Captain

“Many of my own beliefs are shared with the majority of students at the College, irrespective of their faiths. Respect, compassion, faith, comradeship and excellence are just a few common values that all Salesian students share with each other.”

The Salesians, through the teachings and philosophies of their founder, St Don Bosco, have traditionally provided a sanctuary and place of education for young boys in Italy. However, as the Salesian Order grew, so did the variety of cultures, traditions and faiths that the young boys in their care held. As more boys with different values arrived at Salesian schools, the Salesians embraced the diversity of these boys, and continued to nurture them within the Catholic tradition. This underpins the culture of Salesian College Chadstone today, more than 150 years later. Salesian College now harbours a diverse range of faiths, beliefs and cultures within our school, and we embrace individual students, whilst encouraging them to become great men.

Personally, I have encountered this variety of cultures, faiths and beliefs through the multitude of extracurricular activities that I participate in, on the sporting field, in our Debating team, in extension classes and much more. Throughout my years at Salesian, I have developed my knowledge of other beliefs by getting to know my peers, who, although they may come from different backgrounds, share similar experiences. It has been an educational journey full of joy and friendships, and an eye-opening expedition. Interestingly, many of my own beliefs are shared with the majority of students at the College, irrespective of their faiths. Respect, compassion, faith, comradeship and excellence are just

a few common values that all Salesian students share with each other.

These values, along with the experiences I've had here at Salesian, have been key in leading me to where I am today, as College Captain. Perhaps the most important value shared by many at our school, in my opinion, is respect. Respect is the cornerstone on which all positive values are built, and I believe that Salesian College provides the framework for respect to be developed. I believe that all leaders should be respectful, confident, kind, understanding and committed. I would also like to highlight the significance of commitment. It seems that society today sometimes lacks the commitment or drive to participate in, succeed at or stay focused on a goal, and I implore all students to remain committed to their goals and responsibilities. Commitment is essential for representing yourself as a dedicated and respectful individual.

Salesian College Chadstone embraces all boys' faiths and traditions, which strengthen the College in a variety of ways. I am privileged to have friends of different faiths and cultures, and to learn about their beliefs in a thoughtful atmosphere. I truly believe that Salesian College is an accepting environment that embraces all faiths and promotes a multicultural and diverse school, where boys are educated to become great men.

