

JAMES:

Good Morning everyone,

The class of 2020 had it tough trying to adapt to a whole new style of learning while also trying to prepare for SACs and exams. For VCAL this was especially hard because our style of learning is to be outside working and being in teams. To go from that to being inside everyday was very challenging for all of us. We had so much planned for 2020. We had an exciting year to look forward to, but overnight it was all gone. The strength of the VCAL team is that we know how to adapt and how to figure out things quite easily. So, into the first week of online school, I was very comfortable, thanks to my classmates and teachers.

If there was one thing that I got out of VCAL, or my year 12 experience in general, it came from one project. In VCAL you work alongside your teachers and learn to develop skills in autonomy and independence. One of the business ideas we created was to hold a parent evening for Year 7 students but unfortunately, COVID and lockdown meant that this couldn't occur. When my partner and I were about to give up, our teacher, Mr Gifford, changed our mindsets. He taught us the importance of being flexible, resilient, open-minded and prepared to pivot our idea into something that could work. Although that experience was challenging, it taught me that when you face a problem, there are always multiple solutions, you just have to keep trying until you find one that works.

It is an honour to be the 2020 VCAL dux but I recognise that this award is a result of the support I have received from a number of people. Firstly, thank you to the

VCAL senior staff and students for making every day enjoyable. I always enjoyed our conversations and the way you supported me throughout the year. I would like to thank you for making me want to come to school each and every day. Throughout my time at Marcellin, I was able to undertake a number of opportunities. Thank you to the staff that supported me on the College's Italy Tour, and to the staff and students in the Rugby program who made me fall in love with a sport I had never before played. I would also like to thank Mr Tony Likousis and Mr Brett Atley for dealing with my antics day in day out. Finally, I would like to thank my parents for having faith in me and always being on my back, because I definitely needed it, and without their help, Year 12 would've been a lot harder.

There are two things I want to leave you all with. Firstly, if you feel like you want to give up on a problem, always try to find a solution. It might take you 5, 10 or maybe 100 different attempts, but keep trying. And finally, always dream big. Do what you want to do and chase your future. Remember the opportunities that Marcellin has given you and continue to aspire for greatness.

Thank you.