

MITCHELL:

Good morning staff, students, and the wider Marcellin community.

To begin, I would like to highlight what an honour it is to receive this award which has been a goal of mine since year 7, and also emphasise how this wouldn't have been possible without the support of my family, friends and teachers.

To my family, Natalie, Daiman and Jesse, I cannot thank you enough for the love and support you have shown me throughout my life. Thank you for prioritising my studies for the past 24 months and always pushing me to do the best. I would not be in the position I am today without you guys.

Special thanks to my VCE teachers who all went out of their way to ensure I understood everything I needed to know, and making classes, whether they were in class or online, so much easier. Your selfless commitment pushed me to strive for the highest and is also a reason I am standing here today. To Ms Carmody, your friendly and enthusiastic personality along with your broad knowledge of Maths helped me tremendously and helped get rid of the nerves of undertaking my first VCE subject. Thank you. To Ms DaCosta, thank you for your tireless dedication towards me and the class and your patience in answering my countless questions, which I hope didn't cause you too much stress. To Ms Castauro, although I did not necessarily enjoy studying for English, I definitely enjoyed your classes as you never failed to put a smile on the boys' faces which made a challenging subject much more enjoyable. And thanks to Mr Kalejs for being such an easy-going teacher and helping me achieve my goals for

Methods. Last but not least, thanks to my pastoral leader Mr Love and the Carnie 01 boys; it was a pleasure to be a part of such a great pastoral group.

I truly believe year 12 was one of the best years of my schooling. However, 2020 did come with many gruelling challenges such as being stripped of school sport and many other co-curricular activities which was devastating. Especially being told you can't play year 12 footy which has been a driving passion of mine since year 7, it did not help ease the stress of year 12, but this devastation was easily outweighed by the strengthened relationships I had with my mates as we were able to think of alternatives to keep a healthy balance between year 12 studies and social life which was vital to performing well in year 12. So, if you're only going to take one thing away from this speech, I hope that it is to keep a healthy balance between your year 12 studies and your social life as suffocating yourself with study will do you no good.

And to the class of 2020, who made my high school years something to cherish forever. I'm sure we can all walk away from our time at the college with lifelong friendships and a sense of accomplishment. All of us seemed to step up to the challenges of Covid and make it one of the best years of our lives. Cheers boys and congrats for completing year 12 in what could be considered a difficult year, all the best for your future endeavours.

Despite being a relatively stressful year, I will always think of year 12 as the best year of my schooling as you make unforgettable memories with your mates, and whilst moving on in life I'll forever value the life lessons I have learnt here at Marcellin college.

Good luck to all the new year 12s and all the best for 2021.

Thank you.