

Good morning everyone,

My warm congratulations to all the award recipients today – your efforts have paid off, and I hope this recognition pushes you to continue working hard.

It is my pleasure to be invited back to the school to share a few words, and my honour to speak as the most recent College Dux, the last under the name of CRC Melton.

Over my years here, I have been privileged to be part of a community that offers such a wide range of opportunities and support. Taking part in many of these, I came to find an enjoyable high school experience that allowed me to explore my skills and passions, learn, and make connections.

In an academic sense, I have grown as a student by placing my efforts towards the ideas and subjects that are most meaningful to me, things that I both enjoy and find challenging, such that, in the end, I can be satisfied with how I have spent my time.

By Year 12, after also having experienced studying a couple Unit 3 and 4 subjects in the previous year, I had become very focused on the activities and goals I had chosen as meaningful, allowing my sincere, hard work to begin to come to fruition – all the while still balancing my time with plenty of rest and good times with friends.

Although I cannot deny my shortcomings and the mistakes I have made along the way, I believe that those, too, have helped me to learn and grow.

I encourage the new class of Year 12s, and the younger students approaching VCE to truly examine their goals, learn to study efficiently and effectively, take on challenges you can grow from, and concentrate their best efforts to achieve what is most important to them.

Spend the little time that you have in Year 12 wisely, have fun, and learn lots. Don't be afraid to reach out to others, your friends, and especially your teachers to make the most of what is available.

I cannot accept this award today, without, of course, offering my sincere thanks to the people who helped me get to this position.

I would like to thank my teachers over my time at the College, and especially my Year 12 subject teachers, Ms Whitford, Ms Nguyen, Mr Orr and Mrs Rowley, and Mrs Solano and Ms Hume in 2021, who have all spent great efforts to guide and teach me – marking extra practice work, offering resources and providing their time and advice.

To my parents, thank you for your endless patience and support, through the ups and downs of high school, through cycles of motivation, tiredness and discouragement, and for always pushing me to do the best that I can, in every given situation.

And to my friends, who always cheered me on, celebrated my every little step and made my days bright, thank you.

This year, I will take my first step to pursue architecture, studying a Bachelor of Design at the University of Melbourne. I look forward to all the new opportunities I may come across and will remember to look back to the experiences and people that have led me there.

I offer a final congratulations to the award recipients, my best wishes to my fellow recent Year 12 graduates, and a reminder to all to enjoy, and make the most of what you have.

Thank you.

***Andria Jojo***

***2022 CRC Melton Dux***