



Good morning Mr Ronchetti, staff, students, and fellow high achievers. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate the lads in front of me for their hard work and efforts which have been recognised by the college and the community today. I'm sure your family and friends are proud, and I hope you are too in your own achievements.

Secondly, it is with great pride and honour that I am announced the Dux of the college for 2021. This pride is particularly prevalent given I am apart of a cohort which possesses some of the most talented and intelligent lads to set foot on the handball courts, classrooms and footy fields of this college. For many years, my area of focus has been academia. I distinctly remember every Dux speech I have heard, from Year 7 to Year 12, and being in awe of the man behind the lectern. Fortunately, today that man is me, but I must emphasise that there should be many more people behind this lectern with me this morning, because an achievement like this is a team achievement, and reflects the efforts of the most important people in my lives.

To all the teachers I have had over the course of my St Dominic's journey, and even to those who haven't had me as a student and yet selflessly gave up their time to help me achieve my goals...thank you. Firstly, thank you to my two year co-coordinators. Mr Godsell, you eased us all into the Dommies life, and was the Star Wars loving guidance we all needed. You passed the baton to Mrs Knowles, who has led us through two of the most challenging years of our lives, so to you miss, thank you. Also to Mr Cummins in Year 7, the 'crazy man' I'd seen on T.V at every Panthers game, thank you for laying a solid foundation for my time here at Dom's. To Mr Hall, Hally, Jarod. Thank you for the Kahoots, and the Quizlets, which instilled within me a love for all things social science. Without your classroom antics, my knowledge on flags and soccer club logos would be minimal. To Miss Birkett, Bronny B, words cannot describe how dedicated you are to your role in the lives of your students. Never has a teacher cared so much for how a student is feeling, how balanced their life is, and whether their neural pathways are squeaky clean. Having me as a student for two periods a day must've demanded many Panadol's, and so I promise to reimburse you in the future. Finally to Mr Gerlach, Davey G, you have been an inspiration in my life since Year 9 maths. As an aspiring maths teacher myself, you have shown me that anyone can be a teacher, even if they rocked mullets in their youth, as long as they use sarcasm and bad jokes in the classroom.

A big thank you goes to my parents too, Karen and Stephen, and my brothers, Ben, Josh and Matt, and sisters, Laura, Tash and Shauna. You are all role models in my life and have shown me support every day of my schooling journey. Also, to my girlfriend, Jordan, you have been a fountain of laughter, joy and encouragement over the last year, and have been a much-needed distraction away from the stresses of senior schooling. Thank you all of you, I wouldn't be standing here today without you all.

To the all the lads who sit before me today, I hope to share with you some words of wisdom which will help you during your remaining time at Dom's. Although making your bed in the morning seems trivial and unnecessary, I attribute some of my success to doing it every day. An activity like this establishes a routine, which is key in being a successful student. It is believed that an inconsistent bed-maker is also a student who procrastinates, a gym-goer who skips leg days, a sports player who attends training once a week, and most importantly, is someone with a typically unhappy mother. And so, if you are wishing to become the smartest student in your class, the strongest person at your



gym, or the best player on the field, I urge you to wake up, make your bed, and establish routines that align you with success.

Secondly, whether you are an aspiring halfback for the mighty Panthers, or wish to become the next astronaut on a NASA expedition – I want you all to stay true to yourself, and your goals. If you do not have a goal you are working towards in this very moment, make one. Dream big or small. Dream to pass your driving test that's coming up. Dream to be a millionaire. For me, I dreamt of beating my brother's ATAR's, and to be standing at this very lectern since the first day of Year 7. Thankfully, my dream came true, giving me endless bragging rights at the dinner table. So dream whatever it may be, but be true to yourself. Don't aspire to be a dentist because your uncle wants you to be one. You need dreams which get you out of bed in the morning, and make you want to catch the bus to this college every day. Without a goal in sight, your actions become meaningless, and your words become empty. Without a dream, you'll forever be stuck in the boredom of what is, instead of the happiness found in what could be.

Finally, Albus Dumbledore famously said to one Harry Potter; "Help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who deserve it", which I think applies to all the lads at Dom's. If you are humble in word, and kind in action to all those around you, your pleas for help will be heard, doors will be opened when you knock, and the path towards your goals will be cleared.

Thank you all, and God bless

