

Year 12 Presentation Evening Farewell Speech 2013

Good evening students and guests,

It fills me with a great deal of pride to be standing here tonight as your head of year on behalf of your previous heads of year Ms Brown, Mr Milhench, Mr Brewer and Mrs King, for this special occasion. Tonight is a celebration, a chance to reflect on the past 5 years and a chance to look towards the future.

Your Graduation is a wonderful achievement that in time you will look back with pride regarding the friends you have made, the battles you have both won and lost, the experiences you have enjoyed and the success you have achieved.

Let's take a trip back in time to year 8 and how well do you remember:

1. Your very first Day, the fear over all the rumours about what the older kids would do to you.
2. The first crush you had, thinking that some guy or girl was really cool, and now you realise they definitely are not.
3. The sporting achievements, the medals and those long runs around the Oval set by Mr Sloper.
4. The moment you realised that being in year 10 meant you had to actually think about what you wanted to do in life.
5. And to the blur of being in years 11 and 12 and the frantic visits to Mrs Ford's office to see if you would pass.
6. Perhaps the most memorable occasion for many will be the ball. The red carpet entrance, beautiful candelabra centrepieces, or partying the night away.

I would like you all to consider what it means to succeed and what that will mean for you all. Tonight success for most of you will be that you have graduated after 5 years of hard work.

Success in the coming months maybe measured by qualifying for university, getting into the TAFE course you applied for, getting into paid employment or even embarking on some form of travel.

Regardless of what your endeavours may be, the future is yours to take advantage of, to make a difference and to understand what great opportunities there are for the taking.

I would like to share with you what success means from a number of teachers you have shared this journey with.

- Success isn't about being rich or famous; it's to have a good job and a wonderful life.
- Success is fulfilment, happiness, to be surrounded by loving family and friends. To feel satisfied in your career pathway but more importantly in how you serve others.
- Success is achieving a goal that you know you have personally persevered at and can stand back and be proud of what you have accomplished.

Lastly I would like to share with you my own recipe for success

1. Have no regrets
2. Regret what you haven't attempted rather than what you have
3. Treat people and yourself well
4. Work hard
5. Strive to make a difference to the people you meet and the people you already know

I believe that there are three types of people in this world:

1. Those that make things happen
2. Those who watch things happen
3. And those who wonder what happened.

Be that person who makes things happen. What an exciting world you are contributing to!

Year 12's - In standing here tonight you stand before your family and friends who have supported you through your educational journey , shared the stresses of exams; no doubt through a range of tears, tantrums and laughter.

You might recall a gentle hug or words of encouragement in getting an assignment completed, you may remember asking for some advice on a complicated maths problem only to realise that mum and Dad had no idea, and let's not forget all the parent interviews, meetings to discuss your behaviour or the taxi service mum and dad have provided.

Just as significant are all the teachers and school support staff, who have worked tirelessly in helping you achieve. Think about the times a teacher has allowed you to do a catch up test, hand in that last assessment and the number of camps and excursions you have attended. Spare a thought for your performing arts teachers who spent days in a panic with the only comforting thought of "It'll be alright on the night".

But one more thing you need to remember, though you may not first think of it - look around you at those slightly older faces sitting in this room. Look at your teachers' faces. You will see something: did you see it before?

Pride, joy, triumph, a feeling of completion for getting you through your high school years.

Yes, there may also be some sighs of relief in some cases.

Look carefully and you might even see a slight moisture in the corner of their eyes. They have looked after and over you for five years. You are moving on: they will stay, hoping you will go on to fulfil your dreams, your hopes and aspirations.

Remember to thank them:

- whether it was Mr Burt running you through those football drills, or
- Mrs Guard trying to find you another work placement, or
- Ms Toose finding that book you were looking for, or
- Mrs Graf and Mrs Braack at the office making that call to your mother because you forgot your note, or lunch, or money or felt sick or whatever it was that day.

Your teachers, like your parents, can now only look on as you move ahead on your own two feet, striding into the wonderful future that is the rest of your life.

Thank you parents and thank you staff of Wanneroo Secondary College.

I would also like to personally thank a few people that have helped me throughout the year.

To the students in the Council and committees who helped me organise the ball, leavers jackets and year book and the constant positive attitude you have all brought this year.

To Mrs Smith for your endless hard work and support for all the events this year and help when I was not in the office.

To Mrs Ford. Your wisdom, advice, assistance and behind the scenes work could never be taken for granted. Thank you for your time, guidance and support in providing information about the opportunities available to our students. You are a true asset to Wanneroo.

And to all the wonderful Year 12 students who helped make my job a pleasure and of course those students that kept me on my toes.

Finally I wish you the very best of luck in the pursuit of your dreams and goals. It is both a daunting and exciting time of your life where you will play your part in shaping the future

GOOD LUCK to the Year 12 Graduating class of 2013

Miss Berryman

