

Solomon Miesen – 2021 CRC Melton College Dux – Senior Awards Ceremony Speech

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the award recipients today, your hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. I would also like to congratulate last year's cohort for completing the year despite two hard years of lockdowns and unique challenges.

It is a great honour and privilege to be receiving this award today. I would like to thank the college for hosting this event and inviting me back to share my journey. The college has given me many opportunities throughout high school that I fully embraced which has led me to be standing here today. The range of activities and school representation that I was able to do in my time here gave me a sense of pride when wearing my uniform.

My VCE journey started in year 11 when I had the opportunity to study Year 12 PE early. In allowing me to do this I was provided with the foundation of skills for the following year and made me realise what was required to be successful in year 12. Year 12 was not a perfect year for me and encountered many difficult circumstances and challenging times. Multiple lockdowns, being admitted to hospital for appendicitis and reoccurring bouts of tonsillitis were all big interruptions, however with the support around me and by being willing to put in consistent effort I was able to overcome these challenges. ***To me, this shows that despite the challenges any of you may face in your final year of schooling that with the right supports around you, you will succeed. So, make sure you use these.***

I would like to thank many people that have helped me along the way. My friends, for making the year enjoyable and giving me time to have breaks and respecting me when I needed to study. My teachers throughout my time at the college especially those I had in year 12, Mr Arthurson, Mr Orr, Ms Ngyuen, Mr Wei, Dr Gopalan and Mr Kelly. Your knowledge was the greatest resource I had. All of you gave up so much of your time, even after school hours which I am forever grateful for. Most importantly you were all great supports for me during the year. My brothers and sisters and my dad all of you provided constant support throughout the whole year, especially Paul for consistently pushing me even in the toughest times. The confidence, belief and potential you all saw in me inspired myself and kept me motivated.

This year I have moved away from home to Monash University where I will be studying a double degree of engineering with honours and science. It is rewarding knowing that the hard work I put in during school has enabled me to do this and I am excited for where this opportunity will take me.

For this year's year 12s, these are the key take aways and advice I have from my experience. Surround yourself with people that believe in you and that want you to do your best. Use all your resources, especially examiners reports and your teachers. Know what you want to achieve and find what works for you. I had my own unique way of studying that took me time to perfect and it was not only by putting in the effort to study but knowing how to study that got me the results. Setting time aside will only get you so far, using it effectively is of greater importance. Most importantly have time for other things you enjoy, CRC provided many extracurricular activities that I always participated in, which gave me breaks from studying. I continued to put in effort in sport by continuing to play footy and umpiring and

trying my best in those. Enjoy time with your friends and your cohort. This year was the closest I had been with everyone at school and was the year I made the most friends and memories, so make sure you enjoy it. Enjoy all the banter and have a few giggles.

Thank you