



FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2013

This year, we will farewell 15 Year Twelve students who are now ready to move onto their respective post-school 'lives'. This time of year is always fraught with mixed emotions: sadness at the thought of missing these young men and women on a day-to-day basis, anxiety with the transition and newness of the next phase in their lives, but overwhelmingly excitement and positivity with the prospects, opportunities and adventures that lay ahead of them.

"These young adults should be incredibly proud of themselves for the outstanding way that they have acted as true leaders and role models for our younger students and for the bravery that they are showing as they move on. It has been so lovely to witness the beautiful friendships between them and I hope that they will treasure their memories of their time at Mater Dei for many years to come," said Secondary Coordinator, Alison Meani.

'Matters' asked the students what they have loved about Mater Dei, what they will miss, and what their plans are for next year.

Sanjana Chavan, 18 – "I just loved being in the Satellite Class. I loved going to my Structured Workplace Learning Program (SWLP) each Tuesday, the different teachers and the P.E. camp – especially jumping off a cliff into the ocean!" After a family holiday to India, Sanjana will begin her Transition to Work program in Campbelltown.

Justine Cross, 18 – "My favourite things have been the excursions and retreats, but I will mostly miss my friends and the teachers." Justine was our Blue House Captain this year, and has been with our community since Year 7 in 2008. She will move into a program with Macarthur Disability Services (MDS) in the New Year.

Zoe Dengate, 18 – Zoe is hoping to work in the childcare industry and is pursuing options and support through her Transition to Work provider at MDS in Campbelltown.

Britnie Grose, 18 – "I'd really love to be a mechanic. If that doesn't work out, maybe something in childcare." Britnie is hoping to study at TAFE to compliment her interest in the mechanical field, and will do so with the support of a Transition to Work provider.

David Haigh, 18 – David served as our Green House Captain in 2013, and hopes to study transport logistics at TAFE next year. He will be supported with MDS through Transition to Work. "The P.E. camp was awesome because I did a lot of fun things like surf at the beach and got the chance to jump off a cliff!"

Lachlan Hedges, 18 – Lachlan has been at Mater Dei for 14 years, and has especially loved working at Meals on Wheels, dancing and cooking lessons. He says he will miss his friends and playing memory games on the Smart Board. Lachlan is one of several students who will begin a Community Participation program with the service provider Interchange, which is now newly established in Camden.

Kyle Lambert, 18 – "I like telling jokes with my friends, playing soccer, sport and 'working'. I'm gonna miss these guys!" Kyle will also be commencing a Community Participation program with Interchange in the New Year, and hopes to continue working either at the mushroom farm or the caravan park where he has participated in SWLP this year.

Brooke Lee, 18 – "I have lots of memories of 2013. My favourite one is attending the John Therry Fancy Dress Social because I could get dressed up and live out my fantasies". Brooke begins her Transition to Work program with MDS soon, and has already secured some part-time casual work delivering parcels with Australia Post.

Nathan Leich, 18 – "My highlight is the trust that our teacher, Mrs Patrick, has given all of us to be responsible for our actions. She treats us like adults and then we usually act like one...I like that the best. I really valued my work experience with SWLP. I also loved going to the Electoral Commission and NSW Parliament House and learning about how to vote. Finally I feel so privileged to have represented Mater Dei as School Captain this year". After 13½ years at Mater Dei, Nathan will pursue work opportunities with the support of the Transition to Work program at Nova in Campbelltown. Nathan has already been offered a casual holiday position at Wakeling's Automotive in Campbelltown, after having performed so well there in his SWLP this year.

Cameron Montibeler, 18 – Cameron has been with us since 2000. "I like doing craft and cooking at school. I'm going to miss my friend Cameron and the T.A.'s. Mum and I are moving to Queensland!"

Kyle Neilson, 18 – Kyle commenced his Community Participation program with AFFORD at Yagoona during Term 4 this year, and will continue with them in the future.

Cameron O'Brien, 18 – Cameron too has been with us since 2000. He loves working on the Smart Board, and going to AFFORD and doing the recycling at school. Cameron is excited that he will be able to see some of his friends at Interchange next year.

Genevieve Ryan, 19 – Genevieve hopes to work in either the hospitality industry or an office-type position. She particularly enjoyed and flourished at her SWLP position with Sydney South West Medicare Local this year. Genevieve will begin her Transition to Work preparations with MDS in January. "2013 was one big highlight for me starting with being the School Captain. Another highlight was being in the choir, which I have been in for the past six years. I have also loved the Food Technology classes and learning to become independent with my cooking skills. I will miss my beautiful teacher, Mrs Patrick. She has been helpful, kind and caring."

Rebecca Sutton, 19 – "I love going to choir and singing at all the school functions". Bec has worked especially well this year with our Infants students for her SWLP and will now pursue activities through Community Participation with Interchange. She served our community brilliantly as Red House Captain in 2013.

Jared Valentine, 18 – Jared has also been at Mater Dei since Kindergarten in 2000, and will move onto a Community Participation program with Interchange next year. He has especially loved looking at footy and wrestling magazines with his class mates and will miss his teacher, Mrs Steedman. Next year, Jared will join some of his friends at Interchange.

From everyone at Mater Dei, good luck and please stay in touch!