change for the best and our students will always take those changes in their stride and persevere through the time of change.

My biggest personal philosophy in my personal life is striving for personal excellence and success in whatever you want to do or try your hand at in life. Tonight is very much an occasion where we gather to celebrate individual success. Hours of hard work has gone into the lives of these young men over the past year, countless nights finishing assignments and studying for tests have filled their lives and tonight is the night where we gather here as a college community to celebrate your success gentleman. You have put in the hard work and have seen reward for your effort.

Many people search for this magical formula for why some people are successful and why others are less so. It all boiled down to the concept of productivity that you’re going to apply the most amount of effort to the best of your ability in the amount of time that you have, and people who are successful understand this. Time is the most precious commodity - it is the one thing that we can’t ever buy or buy back. And these successful people realise that they have a certain amount of time to perform a given task so they have to give it their all to do that task because going through the motions in life is the most disadvantageous thing you can do.

They will recognise that they need to give it their all heart and soul in every task no matter how large or how small it is. It may be as simple as doing the dishes - if you do it wrong the first time you have to go back and do it a second time, but these successful people understand that no matter how big your given task, if you have to do it correctly the first time you don’t have to go back a second time because if you can’t do the dishes right how are you suppose to run a business or study at uni.

The same applies for your school work - you committed heart and soul to manage your time and complete your homework on time, to study for tests, to finish assignments and you will find success. In the words of the great Vince Lombardi: “Winning is not a sometime thing, it is an all the time thing. You don’t do things right once in a while...you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.”

But the mark of a true man is not how many races he actually wins but the time he spends running that race. Anyone can be great and confident when things are going well - it is who we are when things couldn’t get any worse that really counts. That person is the person whom people remember, recognise and hold in high esteem.

It is only true champions that experience the worse tragedies and situations; it is those who strive to be extraordinary that face the steepest mountains and the longest, most brutal fall. Why? Because to become extraordinary you need to face extraordinary challenges. Life has given us the chance to become the extraordinary individuals we were always meant to be, relish these hard times, use them to help turn yourself into a person that people and remember.

Gentlemen: you are all extraordinary young men in what you have achieved this year, and I challenge you to push your boundaries even more and climb higher mountains. The world is your oyster and you have the ability to do anything you want to do no matter how high.

Mazenod has taught me many things in my time here. From being a little Year 9 student learning where room 207 is, or being a Year 12 learning about the pathways that can be taken after we leave these hallowed halls. But I believe Mazenod has done a greater deed for me. Mazenod has shaped me as a young man, taught me life lessons, put me through hard times and the most joyful times to help me and come out at the other end even stronger.

This is something every young man that attends Mazenod will experience before they leave. The teenage years of a boy’s life are some of the most important and being fostered by the Mazenod school and community our young boys in Year 7 will grow and become admirable young men by the time they walk out our doors for the last time. Mazenod has thought me to be striving for my own personal excellence and success in whatever I do.

And the young men that will arrive back next year and the young men who will be blessed with the opportunity to attend Mazenod in the future will all have their own personal experience of what Mazenod means to them by the time they leave and go on. But you will always be a student of Mazenod and that is what unites us as brothers, no matter what age no matter what race we will always be Mazenod men.

To the young men who sit before me this is the last time I will be able to address you as your college captain and I would like to leave you with this parting message about knowing that no matter what you peruse in life you will always have the ability to be successful you will always have the ability to strive for your best no matter what anyone will tell you. You’re in control of your life and the way you want to live it.

And I know the young men who sit before me and the young men who aren’t here tonight will always be of a character that will always strive for their personal best in any facet of life. To the world outside Mazenod, we can only say: You don’t know anything about me. You don’t know what I am made of or what I am capable of. You don’t know where I have come from or where I am heading. You know nothing of my highs or my lows. You don’t know how fast I am, how strong I am, how resilient I am. You have no clue what breakfast cereal I eat what fragrance I wear or who I am dating. You don’t even know my name. But you will.

It has been an honour to lead a group of such admirable young men, all 900 students, you are all my mates you are all my brothers you are all my family.

Thank you.