

COURAGE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

My name is Dylan Hema and ever since I can remember, completing high school and going to university have been huge goals for me. Salesian College Chadstone gave me these opportunities and I took them on wholeheartedly. This is my story.

Growing up, I was always told that I was very capable and had a lot of potential. School has always been the pathway to fulfilling this potential, although I faced multiple serious events throughout my childhood that stood in the way of this. It was these pivotal moments that really changed my life.

The toughest experience for me was the passing of my Mum during primary school. This really instilled great sadness and doubt in my life, as I already had a rocky relationship with my father. I grew up living with my grandmother, facing many indirect threats to my education and future from my father. These obstacles really made me doubt my access to security and opportunity. However, I knew I had to achieve my goals and I couldn't have been happier when I found out I would be attending Salesian College Chadstone.

From the moment I walked through the doors of Mr Brennan's office, I knew that I was being given an opportunity. My first encounter with the Principal really made me feel at home; someone believed in me.

Mr Brennan was mindful of my experiences and I couldn't have asked for better treatment. As soon as I sat down in my first homeroom, I knew that I had to do my best.

The teachers I met throughout my years at the College made a major impact on my life, and not just academically. From teaching staff to administration staff, they were all so kind to me. It would be remiss of me not to mention the Wellbeing Team; they would have to be the most caring people I have ever met.

I believe in courage in the face of adversity, and Salesian reflects this value perfectly. The Salesian community that I call home believes in motivation, determination, and being resilient, no matter the threat encountered. I couldn't have asked for any better support growing into a young man.

Despite facing many obstacles throughout my life, I completed Year 12 in 2017 and am striving to do great things. I couldn't have done it without the people who believed in me and who gave me a chance, including a great network of friends and family at Salesian College. I can't thank these people enough for their support in achieving my goal, to become the first person in my family to attend university.



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**SALESIAN
COLLEGE**
CHADSTONE EST.1957

10 Bosco Street
Chadstone Victoria
Australia 3148

T +61 3 9807 2644
F +61 3 9888 1289

ABN 43 797 631 001

www.salesian.vic.edu.au

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