



2016 CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

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2016 College Captain

At Salesian College Chadstone, Student Leadership gives students the opportunity to learn and demonstrate leadership qualities in a supportive environment. This gives students the ability to reach their full potential and be involved in all aspects of the entire College community. The chance to develop a culture in which students make the most out of their College life at Salesian is something that drives all Student Leaders to acquire such a position.

Our role as leaders began at the end of 2015 as we undertook a three-week leadership program in preparation for the year ahead of us. We were able to develop an insight into how student leadership at Salesian College should be, and explored multiple ways in which we can leave our mark on the college. In addition, we learnt what qualities and skills student leadership requires and the responsibilities we as leaders have with such positions.

The program entailed a series of sessions, some involving guest speakers such as Steve Pantelidis, a former student at the College, who is now a professional soccer player, as well as Lauren Hichaaba, the director of the Cagliari Project, which is a Salesian run volunteer program, who inspired us to make the most out of our newly elected positions, and helped us to understand that the skills we are learning in leadership now are transferable to our lives beyond Year 12. In December of 2015, we were given the opportunity to engage with other Salesian schools' captains from around Australia at a conference in Lysterfield. This experience enabled us to see what the culture and life are like at other Salesian schools. It was a privilege to share new ideas with other school captains and to see that the values and beliefs we hold at Salesian College Chadstone were similar to those of all other Salesian schools around Australia. Concluding this event, we felt well equipped for the year ahead of us, and positive that we were able to embark on our roles in 2016 with gusto.

Term One at Salesian College was filled with exciting events and opportunities for the College to come together as a community.

We as leaders are able to be role models to the younger students, demonstrating what it is that makes great young men. Salesian allows for many great initiatives for us as leaders of the College to be role models to the younger students. Leading into 2016, the Student Leadership team acknowledged the opportunity to take charge and step up to the plate in our final year. Consisting of eight House Captains and Vice-Captains, four Ambassadors, two College Vice-Captains and a College Captain, the structure greatly allows for success. The year has already given us the opportunity to use our skills and engage in many College events so far. The House Swimming and Athletics were both great successes, with the largest attendance in many years for both of the days. Students showcased their individual talents, and the day also allowed for the leaders to take a step forward in many areas, including the organisation of both days and fostering school spirit. Shrove Tuesday and the competitive selling of pancakes between Houses further enabled us to develop and promote our leadership skills and link to our school's social justice awareness and campaigning, which in turn raised money for Caritas Australia.





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We aim to continue our active and passionate involvement in these events throughout the year.

As a student leadership body, we understand the importance of student voice. At Salesian, we believe that all students, even those not elected to a position of leadership, are leaders. Our aim for 2016 is to further emphasise this notion. The leadership structure spans from Year 7 through to senior year levels, consisting of Class Captains from Years 7-9, House Leaders in Years 10 and 11, and lastly, roles such as Student Ambassadors, House Captains and College leadership roles in Year 12. Each individual role has its own specific responsibility. It is through this that we can come to understand that even the young leaders within the College are just as effective, promoting our visions and values, as well as initiating the formation of our brotherhood.

Our belief as student leaders is that nothing can withstand teamwork and nothing can beat the strength of unity. Together, as a student leadership body, we have made many achievements so far, and are excited by the prospect of what we can achieve in the remaining months of 2016.

