

Daniel's Year 12 Final Assembly speech:

So it's that time of the assembly, the 2022 captains' speeches. Gemma and I as your captains will be presenting one, and Abbey and Keely as your vice-captains will do another. Or... if emotions get the better of them, I'll be presenting both speeches. We'll try not to take too long so we can get out of here to our fundraising, however, there are a few final things that as captains and your peers we want to say.

Writing this speech, I struggled to put words to the paper. There is so much to even begin to cover. However, last Thursday I was in the Senior Study writing this speech... Yes, I left starting the speech writing as late as I could and was attempting to come up with things to write for this speech, mostly in vain. As I was sitting there Lexi sat down near me, and we got to talking, about how she'd just had her final Ag lesson and the emotions that come with a final lesson, after spending hundreds of hours doing something it's done, gone, just like that.

And so I had something to write about - the end of our school, and the reality that it's come about all too quickly. There are mixed emotions when looking back on the school experience. Excitement, happiness, relief. These are the first emotions to come to mind, with good reason.

Our time at Tumut High has led us to this moment, becoming independent.... (And I hesitate to say it).... Adults. It's time for us to leave and pursue whatever we want in life, able to make our own choices about any and everything. But that brings with it the sobering thought... that we're done!

No more school excursions, classes, seeing our teachers, no more school. It came around quickly, didn't it. One minute we were in Year 7, tiny little things at a new school, meeting new people, meeting our friends that are a part of our lives today. Now we're 18 or soon to be 18, adults. In year 12. Finished school, almost.

And it's scary to think about, but as you sit here, don't think about it as the end, it's a new beginning, a new journey and each of us are more than ready for it.

To my fellow year 12 students, don't forget who has been a part of your schooling lives. First of all our teachers, as Gemma has said, some of which have been with us from the beginning and they deserve all the thanks that are aimed their way. Don't forget their friendships. Wave to them when you see them down the street, or at the footy game. Talk about your lives, and where they're leading. They truly care.

But an important thing is to not stop there when looking to give thanks to those who have been big parts of your school life. Look further, or for those of you sitting in front of me, to your right. Towards your families. Since the day dot, they've been there for us. They've experienced every set of tears and happiness that has come with both school and the growing up that accompanies it. They've been there for every excursion, or at least there to sign the note that's been sitting in your bag for a week and to supply the money, and watched as we've confidently said that we have started an assessment, or that it's under control, that we still have time left. While clearly seeing us procrastinating.

Our families have been there since day one, and it's easy to take them for granted, but remember the support your family has provided and make sure you thank them for all they've done..... And put up with the million different photos they want after the assembly. They love us and are proud of who we've become. And try not to get embarrassed as they cry over their 'baby's' growing up too fast, this is the end of an adventure for them too.

Now to the last group that we need to thank, that I need to thank. My peers. The people who have been with me since I was 5 years old in kindergarten, the people that have been here since year seven or those that have come only in their senior years. You guys have and deserve my biggest thanks of all. I know people say it a lot, but I couldn't have done it without you. Or at least I wouldn't have enjoyed it anywhere near as much. So thank you, for the memories, friendships and experiences that you guys have made the best part of my school life, and i hope that as we sit here as a year, you all can truly appreciate how lucky we have been to get this year group.

Gemma's Year 12 Final Assembly speech:

It just hit me, suddenly the other day - that this is the last day we're going to be at the same school at the same place. Six entire years in the same place every weekday is over.

After wishing all these years away, wanting to grow up and finish school. Now I realize and wish I didn't wish those years away. This school has been a special and safe place for all of us. Some of us might not care about leaving school, but when you really think about it, this was a massive chapter in our lives that is now officially over. A big part of learning and growing. A big part of making us into the people we are today. A big part of making mistakes, of creating memories, friends and connections. A chapter that has and will impact us further on. And a big part of being here and having that same routine.

We have all grown together through our experiences at Tumut High. I know we are tremendously excited as well as nervous to be finishing our schooling journey this year and are ready to embark on the next stage of our lives, equipped with priceless knowledge, unforgettable memories and lifelong connections we have obtained through our time here.

The teachers who have had us from Years 7-12, you have shaped us into informed individuals, ready to tackle life and helped us to make the most of our time here. You truly have the most valiant job of all, and our experience in learning and the environment at the school would not be the same without you. You who have not only educated us, but have been our friends and mentors in school and in life.

Thank you for the softcrosse, Thank you for Cake Day,.. thank you for asking us how we are EVERY single Day when you mark the roll. We need to thank the school for helping us in developing the skills and attributes we need to become the adults we are today. Adults who are ready to step out into the world, however reluctant we may be to say goodbye.

To students in Years 7-11 listening to this speech today you might be thinking we are the lucky ones who get to go out into the world now and leave Tumut High, but I stress to you to make the most of the opportunities that are offered to you.

Get involved. Whether it be the music, the art, Batyr, SRC, excursions, RUOK day...get involved and get to know the people around you... Including your teachers.

The school has so many opportunities for you to pursue, opportunities that would only be a dream of so many people around the world, and may not present themselves to you again in your life.

Push your boundaries and exit your comfort zone, and I can guarantee that it will only enhance your experience in life and make you a more rounded person. It will be challenging but it will be worth it.

To the Class of 2022 ...It definitely hasn't always been easy but we have made it. We can't wait to see what all of you achieve, your impact on the world, and hear the stories you have to share. Be sure to walk out of these gates today- with heads held high and with confidence ... knowing we have made it through... together.

Congratulations.

Abbey's Year 12 Final Assembly speech:

To the class of 2022,

I seriously cannot believe this is it, 13 years of schooling all done. Although this may be a relief to some, it makes me quite upset and scared to leave the comfort that school has provided me, but I feel like that's the whole point of leaving school, to pursue the things we are most passionate about. Whether it be straight away or in a few years when you figure out what you want to spend your life doing, I know that everyone in this year group has the capacity to change the world in ways that matter to them.

The memories that we have all made will continue to hold a special place in everyone's minds. Those that I have shared with close friends such as smuggling a couch into school in year 9 and basically crawling up Mount Kosciuszko with my best friend at the start of the year will always remind me of the good times I have spent at this school. The countless excursions we have been on always pushed me to learn new things about myself and those around me. I learnt that I am alright to go down a waterslide at Jamberoo but will start crying at the sight of that 13 metre drop in the Cairns Wildlife Dome. I also learnt that I get carsick far too often for an 18 year old and staying up all night so I don't miss a 2:30am alarm for a history excursion to Sydney is not as good of an idea as I thought.

When thinking about these memories now that school has ended I can't help but reflect on what it means to leave the place that so many of them were created.

There are moments that will make us laugh and others that will make us question the decisions we have made along the way, but I think the most important ones to remember are those that inspire us.

The ones that made us proud of ourselves, that made us braver and those that made us more kind are the memories that will define us as people for the rest of our lives. So, try not to let go of those moments when teachers or peers praised you for something you did, or when you did something unexpected that surprised you, or when you did something kind for someone else just because you knew it would mean something to them, because the lessons you have learnt through these moments will always be important.

Don't forget to thank your teachers, and always greet them in the supermarket. We owe them endless gratitude and thanks for their care, expertise and patience with us all during times in which we may not have been the best versions of ourselves just yet. But we all know that the compassionate and mature people we are today is because they have shown us what it means to be someone you can rely on and look up to, and I think we should all aspire to be a bit more like them in the future.

To my own teachers over the past 6 years, I would like to begin to thank you all for shaping me into the person I am today. The positive role models I have built relationships with over years or even a few terms will continue to encourage me to excel even my own expectations and do the best for not only myself but those around me.

We are all so lucky to have been able to be a part of this year group and share the memories and experiences that we have had together, the friendships and relationships we have built will last a lifetime and I hope we all know that we will forever be able to rely on these friendships when even the least likely of us begin to miss school just that little bit. It has been such a privilege to spend the last 6 years with such a kind group of people but in the words of Gabriella Montez from High School Musical 2, 'we've gotta go our own way' and be grownups now. Goodluck!

Keely's Year 12 Final Assembly speech:

Well, here we are, at the finish line. Together, we have overcome obstacles, celebrated each other's wins and have had many laughs and fun along the way. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to grow up with, as I cherish so many moments and memories we have shared. I found it a challenge to write this speech as no amount of words could possibly sum up the last six years here at Tumut High School. I didn't think that this day would arrive so soon, that saying goodbye was going to be this hard.

I still remember my first day here, walking through the gates, feeling the eyes of the 'scary' seniors staring me down as I frantically looked around for a familiar face.

Now we are the 'scary' seniors, about to start our own journey into the big world, this time, with less familiar faces and less guidance. Whilst this makes me nervous, it also makes me excited. This world holds endless opportunities just waiting for us to take on.

I could never forget some of the memories I have made here or the fun excursions we have been on, like learning to surf on our Tathra trip and being involved in activities across the school, like performing at CAPA. I have learnt that building a raft to race across a lake is easier said than done and that my luck with unbiased adjudicators is pretty low. Whilst I won't miss the hours of studying or the phrase 'moods not great', there are many things I will miss and will remember forever.

I want to say a big thankyou to all the teachers that have taught me valuable lessons and that have been supportive throughout our schooling career. I wouldn't be the person I am today and I owe a huge amount of gratitude to you all.

Thank you for giving up your time and making us the centre of your attention, as it helped to make us feel important, cared for and ensure that our experience at school was a worthwhile one. Each of you has influenced us one way or another to shape us into being the best versions of ourselves.

And so, here we part ways, go down our own paths, with so many things to learn. I can't wait to see where each of us ends up in a few years. My message to the students of 22 is (as cliché as it sounds) be the best version of you. This world needs more inspiring individuals that are kind and have the ability to change the world.

So please, in whichever endeavours you decide to take on, be kind, giving, spread happiness and be a light when in darkness. Take on every opportunity with a positive mindset, work hard and you will, for sure, go far.

I am so grateful to have shared my high school experience with you all.

And so from myself and Abbey, Goodbye and good luck to our Tumut High family.