



ASSOCIATED
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

life through Christian education

AN OPEN LETTER TO GRADUATING YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Dear Graduating Year 12 students of 2015,

On behalf of Associated Christian Schools, we congratulate you on completing your final year of school. As you leave the safe, secure environment of your school community, the global environment you are entering has many challenges. Recent acts of terrorism around the world have brought a level of immediacy to everyone's lives. Our personal lives are being shared by many through the proliferation of social networking. The internet has given rise to social networks that provide a virtual portable home where we can collaborate and communicate to solve problems. The effect of this phenomenon has been the collective use and ownership of information to have a voice. The messages from your voice become part of the fabric of who you are, how you choose to be in the world, how you interact with others, and what you think you are entitled to in your lives.

May your lives be God honouring and may your stay true to your values - those beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that you hold dear and that define the core of who you are. Our values provide us with a compass for making decisions both large and small. They help us to make choices in our personal and professional lives and help us gauge the "rightness" of our direction. May these values provide a compass for making decisions and choices that help gauge the "rightness" of your direction and the relationships you build. The relationships that you develop are many and varied. You will invest differing amounts of time in each, depending on whether the relationship is with family, friends, colleagues or the person who does your hair. Within all your relationships you have the right to be respected for who you are. Any interaction without mutual respect or where you have no voice is not helpful. Any relationship where you are not valued as a unique individual is not worthy of your participation – change the relationship or remove yourself from it. If you don't know

how to do either of these things, find out. Don't ignore your relationship with yourself. Negative self-talk has to be acknowledged and replaced with positive thinking, because it is an important part of discovering who we are and are meant to be. Os Guinness puts it this way:

“The truth is not that God is finding us a place for our gifts but that God has created us and our gifts for a place of his choosing – and we will only be ourselves when we are finally there”

(Guinness, O., 2003: The Call: Finding and fulfilling the central purpose of your life. Thomas Nelson Inc.)

On behalf of Associated Christian Schools, we pray you can exercise your gifts to build up others, as you pursue the life to which God has called you.

Lynne Doneley



Executive Officer

Associated Christian Schools