Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students

“It takes everyone to perfect a scene and MSM it is now time to Set Your Scene in 2015.”

With these words our College captains Sjanni Rigby-Smith and Annalise Gowing led the Seniors of 2015 in the launch of the Year 12 theme. With their presentation there was such energy and vibrancy present in the Sophia Centre; hearts and minds filled with possibilities and opportunities, joy and hope. Their theme, which is our theme, connects with our vision and our values in multiple ways and I am sure that it will inspire every member of the community to give their very best – to be their very best, as the year unfolds.

My reflection was a little more serious than the dancing, juggling, singing and acrobatics that filled the stage. Along with the inspiration to follow your own strengths, find your own pathway and follow your dreams, the theme connects with two of our important values at Mt St Michael’s, diversity and inclusivity. We are all different and have unique ways of expressing ourselves. Whilst we have a strong understanding of what binds us together to this community, we are not of one mould. We celebrate our strengths and our differences.

Hand in hand is the value of inclusivity with another of our mantras “there is something here for everyone”. As we commence this New Year with this invitation to each member of the College community, we ask how will we find our way to grow and learn, how will we contribute to making
a difference for the good of others and the College community and the communities beyond our gates?

The Year 12s have set the scene for 2015. Let the journey begin!

Tomorrow we formally celebrate the beginning of the College year with the commissioning of our student leaders and all Year 12s who receive their senior badges. We are looking forward to this opening ritual celebrated in our Catholic faith tradition with Fr Peter Brannelly as our celebrant. I know that many parents will join us for this occasion and we will be joined by our much loved Sisters of Charity including Sr Cate O’Brien.

On Sunday I attended a short concert at the Music Camp held over the weekend with around 140 students participating from Year 7 to Year 12. Listening to the camp choir sing diverse songs with difficult part pieces and multiple messages brought joy to my heart and I am sure to all those parents and staff present. Last night we listened to the concert performance of our Open Stage singers who have worked intensively over the weekend and two more days at school this week, with opera singers from Queensland Opera. We marvelled as they reached heights and notes, some of which they had never scaled before. It was simply wonderful and truly a great way to let the Year 12 theme come to life even before the week has come to an end or the paint on the banner had dried.

Our first three weeks of this new year have been filled with energy and hope particularly with so many new students and staff. As we have celebrated each ritual and set the foundation for the year ahead we join with the Year 12s in their prayer from their theme launch.

We pray that we may:
“Open our hearts to receive the message of Christ. In all its richness, so that it may find a home in us and empower us to truly live.”

Sincerely

Alison Terrey