Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students

On Tuesday the Year 12 students enthusiastically launched their theme for 2017. *Dare to Dream. Dare to Do.* Congratulations to the Year 12s on their hard work that resulted in a polished, thought provoking presentation.

Reaching out to make a dream become a reality can be risky. It can involve hardships that our imaginations never knew. Our comfort zone can be so easily disturbed… enter the villain “Doubt” that can creep into our lives and fill our heads with negative thoughts, but we must be courageous and remind ourselves that nothing is beyond our reach…

- if we reach out together
- if we support each other and say “yes ..you can do it, we can do it together”
- if we reach out with all the confidence that we have
- if we are willing to persevere even in difficult times and
- if we dream beautiful dreams that will transform our lives and our world.

Nothing is impossible…

- if we put aside our comfortable ways
- if we build our dreams with faith – faith in ourselves, faith in each other and above all, faith in our God with whom all things are possible.

I have witnessed many examples of students who unknowingly took up the challenge to “Dare to Do” this week. Last weekend 142 students attended the music camp at Duchesne College at the University of Queensland. For our Year 7 students, the thought of participating in this camp was quite daunting. They had just experienced their first two
weeks of secondary school where everything was new—new friends, new teachers and new routines. Attendance at the music camp involved two nights away from the comfort zone of their parents and their homes. However, they opened themselves to new experiences and as a result had a wonderful time with new friendships formed and the development of new music skills. Thank you to the students, staff and parents who supported them so that together the dreams of music camp could become a reality.

Last Wednesday night thirteen of our Year 11 students and their parents attended an information evening regarding an Indigenous Immersion in Alice Springs. This is an incredible opportunity to participate in an experience that will enhance cultural understanding and will be life changing for the students and teachers that will attend. They are “Daring to Do” in action. Our prayers will be with these pilgrims as they prepare for the experience in the coming months.

I could continue to share many more examples, but I will mention one final one that involved the whole school – the swimming carnival. Not all of us have the gift of being fantastic swimmers. Some of our students realized their dream of become an age champion – their hard work to pursue their dream was rewarded. I observed other students “have a go” at events that were not their strengths, but they did it “for their house”. I also observed students encouraging and supporting their peers, cheering them as they made their way down the pool. We all witnessed the courageous actions of some of our staff as they entered the staff-student relay. Yet another wonderful example of supporting each other.

Dare to Dream. Dare to Do.

Tomorrow we celebrate our Opening Eucharist and Commission of our Student Leaders. We pray for them as they formally take up the challenge of leading our school throughout 2017. You are warmly invited to join us for this special milestone in the life of our Year 12 students.

In faith and love
Sharon Volp