

Good morning Brother Steve, parents, staff, and students,

As your college captains for 2024, we stand here today, excited and passionate about the year ahead. We are incredibly fortunate to represent Oakhill, a place that values every student, everyday. With this in mind, we are committed to ensuring that 2024 will be a year full of opportunities, hard work, dedication, and success. Together, let us embark on this journey, ready to embrace the challenges and triumphs that 2024 has to offer.

We would like to give a warm welcome especially to all our new students and, also to our returning students. To the new students, Oakhill can appear daunting at first, but the Oakhill family is here to support you at every turn, guiding you as you navigate your way. This year we CANNOT wait to see all the wonderful achievements, big and small, each and every Oakhill student CAN AND WILL achieve.

Being an Oakhill student comes with great pride. It instils a deep sense of belonging and accomplishment to every student and staff member. Each day, as we walk up the drive, we must ALWAYS look to the Lasallian values, our guiding principles, and embody these both within the college and in the broader community. Before taking action, we must pause to ask ourselves: Is this what an Oakhill student, a member of the Lasallian family, would do? As Lasallians, we are part of something special, a community that reaches far beyond Australia, uniting us all with one purpose. Oakhill is more than just a school; it's a forever community.

Here at college, you have the opportunity to strive to become the BEST version of yourself. We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities that lead to personal growth. Opportunities available include: being a part of this year's musical, participating in a summer or winter sport, volunteering for service activities, or, it could be initiating a conversation with someone you've never spoken to before. This will be challenging; HOWEVER, with strong faith, YOU

can achieve great things. Remember; “Fear says ‘WHAT if’, faith says ‘EVEN’ if”’. So, Even if things do not turn out the way you expected, God STILL has a wonderful plan for you.

Good morning Oakhill,

As we acknowledge our 2023 high achievers today, this year Brother Steve has challenged us all to aim for the stars. Aim for the stars in all we do, all we say and how we act. Oakhill, this is not a simple declaration of motivation to push yourselves. This is a promise. A promise to grow, to develop and to change. When we aim for the stars, we are committing ourselves to continuous improvement, innovation and personal growth. This is not simply striving to surpass academic expectations, but surpassing expectations of our own character. To improve not only our results, but how we see ourselves and who we are as people. As Phoebe said, it’s about taking pride in all our actions. To be kind and just in all aspects of life and to truly aim for stars in all we do, all we say and how we act.

To aim for the stars is not about winning. It's about being resilient and understanding that in light of loss, there lies victory within. Oakhill, we will all face challenges this year, but for all students at the College today, we ask you to continue to persevere and to understand that each and every challenge we face is an opportunity to improve ourselves. We all have unique talents, ambitions and skills and we will showcase them throughout the year. This year Phoebe and I challenge all of you to be courageous and confident in your many abilities and have the faith that you can achieve, not only because you can, but because you care.

But Oakhill, the forefront behind aiming for the stars this year is to understand that service and community is at the heart of each and every Lasallian, and that we, as Oakhill College students, will continue to serve our community with dedication, motivation and discipline, to make the lives of every disadvantaged member in our community shine a little brighter. We will aim to make a difference in

the lives of others and touch their hearts through all we do, all we say and how we act.

In light of all experiences that the new year will bring, this year's 2024 leadership team challenges you all to one collective goal. A goal for all of Oakhill. Support. Support each other. In light of all the difficulties this year may bring, look out for your brothers and sisters. Lend a hand when you see fit and smile more to those around you. Make the effort to demonstrate the spirit and mateship that binds our Lasallian family together. Whether it be sitting in the stands watching our sport, performing arts or public speaking. Be a part of our community so we can lift each other up. Our College spirit rests on our support and faith in each other. Together, when we all aim for the stars, we all will shine a little brighter.

Thank you Oakhill