



Congratulations
CLASS OF 2020



Our Class of 2020 have shown incredible resilience, passion and endurance as they completed their studies in a most challenging year for schooling. I am so proud of every student. Their achievements – whether grand or modest – are only part of the story of their time with us.

Each school day, I see students that are unique, born with a purpose and individual characteristics created by God. It is our continued desire to help students find their God-given potential by offering a wide selection of subjects and activities that help students discern their next pathway after Year 12. To see our VCAL students achieving work placements, and our VCE students offered early entry to Universities, scholarships and community awards, is testament to the diversity and hard work of this group.

To our Class of 2020, it is our hope and desire that you will continue to show kindness and friendship to others, to be generous and continue to look outwardly to bless others.

Continue daily to seek God's plan for your life and to grow into who God has called you to be. He is a God who loves you very much and will guide you in this next stage of your life.

We hope that in these years with us, you have discovered areas of interest and passion as well as areas you want to further develop in the coming years.

As our youngest alumni, we are excited to see where God takes you as He continues to lead and guide you in your future.

Blessings,

Ross Grace
Executive Principal

The Value of SUBTRACTION

Flying in the face of 13 years of maths lessons, this year we learned that sometimes taking things away can add to your life.

Wow. What a year.

Take us back to November of 2019 when we were given the opportunity to be the College Captains of 2020 and we would never have told you that the year would have panned out like this. One of the main experiences of captaincy is to be able to speak publicly and connect with people at events. It's safe to say that those opportunities did not come in abundance this year. However, the lack of traditional opportunities led to a flurry of new and exciting ways to connect and engage with each other and the community.

Being isolated for seven months in the last year of schooling is not the most ideal scenario, but ultimately it taught us all that valuing the things we do have in our life is one of the most important things we can do. A lot of us got caught up this year in what we did not have – the lack of socialisation, removal of freedom, loss of jobs, and the cancelling of holidays. Our school life looked different, and so did our family life, and it was hard to remember all the ways which God continues to work in our lives even through the difficult times. After a while, we began to realise that it is more important to start valuing what is around us, rather than to continue to dwell on what is not. The house we live in, the technology we have access to, the food we get to eat, the support system we have around us, but most importantly – the opportunity we have to lead and connect with people



from home. Sometimes we get so caught up in the things we do not have, rather than looking at the blessings in front of us each and every day. God's providence has been so prevalent this year, as he has gotten us through what seems to be one of the most unknown time periods that we will ever have to experience. We have learnt as captains, and as a year level, to not take anything for granted, and to embrace and be grateful for what we do have.

It has been a unique year, one that we will all carry with us into the future. It has been difficult, and our initial plans and ideas we began the year with were unable to come to fruition, but being part of online Remembrance Day services, speaking individually to different classes, and being able to connect with different year levels over Microsoft Teams has been wonderful. It's taught all of us a lot about perseverance and gratefulness, but most importantly, has reminded us that God is with us every day, not just the easy ones.

We will be able to take our unusual experiences from this year into the future, and for that we are eternally grateful. Thanks 2020. You have definitely been a weird one.

COLLEGE CAPTAINS RILEY WHITE & DANIELLE COOK

COLLEGE VICE CAPTAINS ALEXANDER RICHARDSON & MIQUETTE VAN DAM

VCE BY THE NUMBERS



Dux of 2020
ERIK HAVRYLUK

who achieved an ATAR result of

97.75

2nd highest ATAR result – **93.55**

3rd highest ATAR result – **91.75**

29.6

Average Study Score

66.99

Average ATAR result

25.4%

ATAR results over 80

85%

ATAR results over 50

4.3%

Achieved study scores over 40

2

Exclusive University scholarships

47

Offers for early entry & programs for University

19

Students received early entry to University

100%

VCAL work placements/TAFE course entry

Payatas it FORWARD



Ping Pong to battle slavery, pencil cases to generate wages, and funky socks to buy bikes that transport kids to school. These are just some of the solutions Alex Richardson and his friends have used to change people's lives.

Diehard fundraiser, Alex Richardson, isn't a stranger to great causes, but his deepest connection lies with the people of Payatas. Until its closure by the government in 2017, Payatas was the largest open dumpsite in the Philippines. Over 30,000 people called it home and relied on it for their livelihood.

Fundraising helps families living in Payatas to access training to learn new skills which they can use to earn money to support their families. Every year, Heathdale students have the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to the Philippines where they visit the Payatas community. Alex and the team arranged to sell products made by the people of Payatas. Originally selling handmade roses at the school production of *Beauty and the Beast* in 2019. Lately, Alex struck a landmark deal with Heathdale's book supplier, *Campion*. In 2021, each Primary student will have a Payatas Pencil Case on their booklist, creating jobs for six people in Payatas.

Alex credits the school with encouraging students from a young age to become involved and care for others. "I can still remember the presentations given in assemblies by some of the older students who had been to the Philippines, but the ultimate thing that encouraged me to become involved was going on a Philippines trip myself," he said.

Alex has learned a lot about leadership through his involvement in these different projects. "The best way, in fact the only way to learn about leadership is by doing it," he's learned. "Get involved and throw yourself into it. I think my friends and I have definitely done that a lot. You don't have to be the best people or the most skilled people for the job but when you have a passion for something it doesn't matter if you don't yet have the skills. You can learn skills as you go."

Year 12, 2020 was definitely a year with a difference for Alex and the Class of 2020. "It was definitely interesting and very odd, definitely not how I had planned," he said. "We lost a lot of things that we would normally have done but it was still good and we were able to pull together and still connect with one another. I think we were able to work together and help one another. Throughout the year the other captains and I shared in a ton of home rooms with different year levels which included taking devotions. We each had a theme to talk about. Mine was about loss of purpose because we couldn't do the things we would normally do. I reflected a lot on this personally. Sport, youth group, attending church, seeing friends are things that often give me purpose in my life. If I can't do any of these things then what does give my life purpose?

"The Bible verse I focussed on was Luke 12:7, 'What is the price of five sparrows — two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.'

"Even when we can't do 'normal', we can find our purpose in Jesus. Despite the circumstances we find ourselves in, God is still our rock and our purpose."

Fit for THE GALLERY



Top artist, elite gymnast. Sarkis Chehade has combined his two passions to be accepted into RMIT's Elite Athletes program to study Graphic Design.

For the past nine years, Sarkis trained for four hours a day, four times a week as a gymnast. In 2019, he competed in the Junior Nationals Competition (for 18-20 year olds), achieving first place with the Victorian team and an individual third place win on the parallel bars. "Staying in the competitors' rooms at Hisense arena was a great experience. We felt like we were elite athletes. I didn't expect to win anything so walking away with a third-place medal was really awesome. No competitions were held during 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions so I'm still the current third-place holder in Australia!"

Sarkis is also a gifted artist. He has always loved Art and took it up as a subject when he joined Heathdale Christian College in Year 9. He credits his Years 11 and 12 teacher, Ms Watson, for really pushing him to where he needed to be and enabling him to produce his best work. "It often took a long time to complete pieces", he said, "but it was so good when they were finished. A huge part of Art is trying to work out what you are going to say. I remember sitting at my computer for ages, not knowing what to write about. My teacher told me to "just write!". She said that it didn't matter what I wrote, I didn't have to submit it, I just had to write what I thought. As soon as I stopped thinking and just started to write down my ideas they came together really quickly. That's something that Ms Watson really helped me with. I'm not as good at writing as I am at Art. My writing is definitely not beautiful so I thought I would take my ball point pen and use it to make something beautiful in my Art work. I think it turned out alright." Sarkis has created some fantastic pieces of work, which are more than 'alright'. In fact, Sarkis' work was short-listed for both the annual Top Arts and Top Design exhibitions.

Inspired by his Dad, Sarkis' dream is to follow in his footsteps and study Graphic Design next year at RMIT or Swinburne University. He has already been accepted into the RMIT Elite Athletes' Program at RMIT to study a Bachelor in Graphic Design. "My Dad's a Design Artist," said Sarkis, "and when I was growing up he'd often ask me to sit down and critique his designs for his clients. That was really fun. Last year he let me create a design for a charity event. He took my design to the clients and they liked it. That was a really cool thing to do."

Despite 2020 being a challenging and disrupted year due to the impact of COVID-19, Sarkis has still enjoyed the social aspect of school life and the friendships he has developed. Hopefully, he will achieve his dreams of studying at University next year as well as keeping in touch with the friends he has made during his time at Heathdale.

OFFERS PATHWAYS & PLACEMENTS

In 2020, some of our students received Early Entry into a range of University courses, including:



Bachelor of Graphic Design	Bachelor of Education
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)	Passion for Law Program
Bachelor of Computer Science	Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours)
Bachelor of Arts	Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Clinical Audiology
Bachelor of Business	Bachelor of Biomedicine
Bachelor of Cybersecurity/Bachelor of Commerce	Bachelor of Nursing
Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science	Bachelor of Psychological Science
Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws	Bachelor of Criminology/Bachelor of Laws
Bachelor of Education (Secondary)/Bachelor of Arts (Humanities)	Bachelor of Primary and Special Education

Melbourne University
Australian National University
Australian Catholic University
LaTrobe University
RMIT University
Victoria University

Early Entry offers are made before the ATAR results are confirmed and are subject to meeting all other prerequisites of that course.



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