

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Gundijmara people, their elders past, present and emerging. Congratulations to a proud Gundijmara man in Jamarra Ugle Hagan on being the number one AFL draft pick for 2020 last night also.

Reflection

What a year it has been for the world and our small place as part of the giant global community. A pandemic completely changed the way our society operated and we learned new language including what a Coronavirus was, how to social distance, hygiene measures including hand sanitizing and wearing face masks which none of us enjoyed.

Resilience and Perseverance

Throughout what felt like daily rule changes around protection measures, as students and staff you have done an amazing job to be flexible and adaptable. I would also like to thank your parents, grandparents, carers and support people who have helped you and us through this challenging time.

This year with two lock downs and remote learning programs you have certainly shown your resilience – the ability to bounce back after hardship, and perseverance- to continue to do your best when you don't feel like it.

Some of you have had some real challenges through these times and I am proud of the courage you have shown to ask for help and then to support others to do the same. I am also impressed by your willingness to seek support from your teachers throughout the remote learning period and to adapt to a new platform in Microsoft Teams. Thank you and Well done.

2021

Now we don't know what next year will look like but the changes are happening thick and fast at Baimbridge College and this is a really positive thing to focus on as you say farewell to 2020.

We now have a middle school program that is the envy of many other schools where students get to select their pathway and prepare for life after secondary school very early. It means you have to work hard early to get results and that is a good thing.

We will have additional teachers in classes next year doing team teaching to help students catch up from this year and so you will have all the supports in place you need.

We have almost all of our **Year 10 students** doing an industry accredited vocational subject next year in a range of subjects from computer coding and design to automotive, hospitality, sport and rec, engineering, agriculture and the list goes on.

And, on top of all of this we have a 12 million dollar investment to complete stage 1 of a brand new school with new science, food tech, mental and wood facilities. It will be incredible to be part of the newest and best school in the district.

Head start with your timetable in place has been a real success this year and will mean you are ready to go on return to school. Senior students have virtual school pathways in place to work with teachers at this school and at schools in Mortlake and Murtoa to ensure every student has the chance to reach their potential.

We have plans for athletics and basketball academies for next year with some amazingly talented students identified already and a brand new resurfaced outside playing arena to come.

Next year as your teachers think about you and how we can support you my challenge to you is to try to be grateful for what you have, be proud of yourself, your family and your school and have the courage to think and care for someone other than yourself.

Be your Best Self by being a support for someone else. You are an amazing group of students and each one of you has the ability to be great at something of your choosing and nobody has the right to tell you that you can't.

Next year is your time to show everyone including yourself what you can achieve. You only need to believe you can.

Please take the time to plan for a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and we will see you all back healthy and happy next year.

Thank you.