

## **School Captain Farewell Speech 2013**

Over the past year I have been overjoyed thinking about this day. Freedom, new experiences, no homework... they all seemed really attractive to me during the midst of exams or when I had to hand in an essay. But as I have reminisced over this last week of high school forever I have surprisingly found myself wanting to stay a little longer. Year 7's you do not have this feeling yet but it will eventually come - only 5 years left! Hang in there! I have asked various willing Year 12's to tell me a word or an experience that sums up their time at McAuley. Apart from the standard "lunchtime was the best" response, one word shone as the essence of high school. Friendship. I think we have this unwillingness to leave because of the bonds we form with our friends, our teachers and the school.

I have learnt that school is not only a place for academic education, although you need that too because let's be honest, we are the next generation of strong, intelligent women who will carve out a place for themselves in this world. It is a place for learning about people and the world. It is a training ground for life where we can make mistakes, have successes, be clapped at an assembly of people who are proud to call you a fellow McAuley girl. It is a time in our life that cannot be replicated, a time that is special and unique, for us to learn about ourselves and take advice from our educators who have lived this already.

Our little microcosm of the world here at McAuley. The only difference is that our Prime Minister is Ms Jackman. Take this time at McAuley to put yourself out there, try something new and learn who it is that you want to be. In this little world you can evolve and grow up during some tricky years which we all go through and are continuing to go through. Through the bonds we create with our friends and peers these six years fly past, so if I can offer one piece of advice, appreciate it all and absorb everything you can. I will miss McAuley's red brick buildings and shade cloths. This place has helped shape myself and the Year 12's.

Thankyou Ms Jackman and Ms Grigson for assisting me in my role as School Captain and allowing the leadership team to take forward our initiatives. Also I want to thank our teachers who have taught all of us for six years.

A big thank you should go to the School Leaders of 2012-2013. Both assistants and leaders have made a difference through their hard work and perseverance throughout the year - even through the busy times. You made my job much easier and the generosity in which you worked together truly lessened the load, from coming in at 7.50am on Tuesday mornings to spending your lunchtimes creating banners. Your work has meant the world to me and I want you to know that I appreciate everything you have done and will continue to do for the school. Thank you.

Thank you to Ms Brincat, Year 12 Co-ordinator and owner of noisy keys. You have been a place of refuge, advice and kindness during six very important years in growing up. You have seen us through all of the awkward phases where I'm sure even our parents wanted to

disown us. Skirts down to our ankles, rolled skirts, when we wanted to rebel, when we were too lazy to rebel. For never giving up on us, thank you.

I would like to thank all of you. As a school community you have banded together and been involved in all of the initiatives and carnivals throughout the past year. You have had paint on your thumbs, had to deal with an onslaught of posters and a school “contagion” of mercy spirit. You all survived it and I am pleased to say I think you will never be cured.

Finally, to the new leaders of Catherine McAuley and to our two new school captains, Clare Cox and Elizabeth Eid. I wish you luck in your endeavour to continuously strive to serve the school and its community. I have all the faith in the world that you will do a fantastic job and bring your own style and creativity to the role of a mercy leader. In the words of *John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States*, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

I want to leave you today with the drive to use your friendships to grow as a young mercy women and future leaders in the world. And I hope you remember - United in Spirit:  
McAuley Let’s Hear It!

**Jennifer McCreanor, Year 12**