

Assembly speech

- Good morning all, firstly I would just like to start off by thanking everyone for the way you conducted yourselves yesterday. A huge shout out must go to the boarder's council who put in a lot of planning and time for the event to be as successful as it was. It's not easy having to be up at 5:30 in the morning just to start everything up for the day. A thank you must go to all the boarders who helped out with making the food, serving the food and collecting the money as well. I would also like to thank George and Rory Purser's parents who kindly donated us the 2 lambs that were used for the lamb and gravy roles and the catering staff for all of their help as well. Could we please have a round of applause for Purser family.
- Growing up in Broome as a young aboriginal boy you're not gifted much, well I certainly wasn't. I remember times when we use to cut holes out of the back of a crate just to play basketball as we couldn't afford a basketball hoop. There were times when I didn't bother going to school, I would just stay at home because I didn't want to go to school, and I thought it was sick that I was wagging school. It was not until I moved away from my parents and decided to stay with my grandma that I really had to pull my head in. It's not pleasant having an old lady slap you with her thong on your butt at 7am in the morning yelling, "get up you've got school to go to boy". Looking back at it now that was probably the best decision I have ever made because she was the person who pushed me to go further in life and she's going to be the person who at the end of the day is going to be the most important person in my life. She has supported me in becoming a proud Yawuru and Nyual Nyual man. She puts a smile on my face when I think of her, however at the moment she is going through a tough time. Now it's my time to support her.
- As you already know the theme for this year is "seize the opportunity, excel as one". This relates to me in many different aspects. I have been given an opportunity. It has been a privilege and honour to be able to come to Scotch, let alone being the first indigenous boarding captain. I have had many opportunities thrown at me; I am fortunate enough to wake up every day knowing there's going to be food on the table and when I go to sleep im going to have a bed to lay on and a blanket to put over. I know many boys where I'm from who just don't have access to what I am getting at Scotch, and I know they would have love to have the opportunity that, especially with the sporting side. Therefore, I will never take this for granted. I have 4 months left at Scotch and am currently applying to BHP for a heavy diesel apprenticeship. There have certainly been some tough times coming to Perth, such as homesickness, different food, and putting up with Mr Mecham's puns.
- However, being a role model and a leader there is a lot of challenges and expectation that is thrown your way. Your expected to always being doing the right thing all the time. I have enjoyed the challenge of leading the boarding house in a year of significant change in the operational structure. As you already know there

has been a lot of adjustments to boarding this year and to be the one who was asked to lead this change was challenging because it could either go really well or really badly. Lucky enough the system that is now embedded is I believe an improvement on the system we had before. One of the major advantages is a much better connection within the house especially between younger and older boys, and I'm really proud of this development.

- I think all of the current Year 12s and Year 11s have done a great job of looking after the younger boys in the Senior House and developing some pride in our Clans, but still recognising that we are all one big boarding community. I have also been really proud that some of the Year 12s this year have regularly been down to the Middle School Boarding House to help the young fellas with their prep and also just to be there for a chat.
- With the threat of Covid hanging over us, this has been a rollercoaster of a year, as the boarding house has been open, shut and on ANZAC Day weekend we were even locked down in boarding. I think the staff have handled this really well and I send a very special thanks to Mrs Richmond and the Health Centre for looking after us boys as well as Mr Owenell, Mr Mellor, Mr Hales and Mr Mecham and our House Mothers.
- Going forward I urge everyone to aim higher. Just because you got an early entry into uni, or you have an offer of an apprenticeship, doesn't mean you slow down now, with the finish line in sight.
- I would just like to end with a quote from the famous Michael Jordan "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."
- Take care everyone and let's beat Trinity again.