

Exactly one month ago on October 23, we were gathered together as one for our Graduation Mass. You may recall that on that evening Olivia Manders read a beautiful poem written especially for the occasion. It finished with the lines:

*“We can do anything if we dare to dream.  
With faith, hope and love, the possibilities are endless.  
Let us walk together in confidence, striving for success.  
Stand tall, stand proud.  
We must believe in who we are,  
For faith, hope and love will carry us far.”*

An inspiring poem, read beautifully by Olivia. We received lots of comments after, some about the poem, yes, but many more about the music and video clip that accompanied it. The music was written by Ludovico Einaudi, an Italian pianist and composer. Asked what inspired him to compose it, he said:

*“It speaks about me now, my life, the things around me. My piano, my children Jessica and Leo, the orange carpet that brightens up the living room, the clouds sailing slowly across the sky, the sunlight coming through the window, the music I listen to, the books I read and those I don't read, my memories, my friends and the people I love.”*

Often times in life we remember the music before we can recall the words. Music has a simple way of moving our hearts, lifting them with stirring anthems or calming them with soothing melodies. Music plays an enormous role in all the BIG occasions in life, be it birthdays, weddings, graduations, parties and indeed even funerals. We have a quote of Don Bosco's in the music rooms at the College that says “a school without music is a school without soul”, and how true he was.

I saw the movie Bohemian Rhapsody recently with my daughter. It's the story of the English Band Queen and their lead singer Freddy Mercury, born Farouk Bulsara. We both cried, not because of the way he died so young from AIDS, but because of the inspiring way he chose to live his life, choosing his own path and being true to himself, writing wonderful music and inspiring lyrics that remain inspiring to this day. Music was his way of expressing himself and who he was. He never gave away his values of love and respect for others; he simply chose to live life to its fullest and to live it with no regrets.

Year 12, we ask you tonight to stand tall, to stand proud with faith, hope and love. You are indeed treasured gifts, unique from God above. We've played our part, instilling in you the values we believe are so important in life; values like love, respect, gratitude, hope, and perseverance. But we implore you to do something with them, to strike out and write your own kind of music, sing your own special song, make us proud, yes, but more importantly make yourselves proud by the way you live your lives from this day forward.

Class of 2018, your years at Rupertswood have indeed been memorable ones and I pray you look back on them with fondness throughout your lives. I implore you all to face the challenges of life with courage and resolve, determined to make this world better than the way you found it. And remember, whenever anyone asks you "What school did you go to?" be proud and tell them "Salesian College Sunbury". Ladies and gentlemen, please join with me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

**Mr Mark Brockhus**  
**Principal**