

Eden Powell - Welcome Speech -Year 7 Assembly

Firstly, I would just like to say welcome, and I hope you have enjoyed your first week at Victoria College and are settling in well.

For some of you, this will be a small move up the hill from prep, and for others, it will be a big move with lots of change. Regardless of where you have come from, you are now a Victorian, and you are all part of our school family.

You are also part of your House family, belonging to one of our five Houses. I am sure our House system has been explained to you, but to me I see them as a way of bringing us together into smaller family groups, all years working as a team, to proudly represent their House in all manner of community, academic, sporting and artistic pursuits.

During the past year there has been a lot of work on 'House spirit', and with new Heads of Houses raring to go, there will be even more events and opportunities to get involved in. Coming up we have Founders week and House drama and whatever your interests, I would encourage you all to get involved with them as much as you can. House events are an excellent way of bonding with other members of your House, they are also a great way of making 'House' friends from all year groups.

Making the most of every opportunity in all aspects of school life is so important. As well as being fun, many of these events help you contribute to your House. Whether you just participate in an event or win it, you will gain points for your House, and these points will go towards one of the three big House Cups at the end of the year. Therefore, even if you think you will come last, always try to participate, as events can be won simply because the other team does not have enough players. It is always worth taking part and I look forward to seeing you all at our House events.

As we go through the year, there will be numerous opportunities for you to get involved with school co-curricular life – that's the non-academic side of school. My biggest piece of advice is to get involved with as much as you can regardless of whether you think you will enjoy it or whether you think you will be good at it because you never know, you might surprise yourself. Regardless of anything, co-curricular clubs are an opportunity to try something new, make friends with students from other Houses, and find a new hobby.

This week whilst walking some of you between lessons, I have already seen how quickly you are finding your way. It has only been three days and already many of you are becoming independent and know where to go - clearly, you are fast learners and soon we won't be needed!

However, adapting to change and making friends can take time, so don't worry if you are like I was when I started. I definitely took a bit longer to find my feet. I clearly remember getting lost, physically I felt tiny amongst giants, I honestly didn't have many friends and was a bit shy. I would have never imagined that one day I would be speaking to you here as Head Boy! So please don't worry if it also takes you time to find your feet, you are not alone, we are all here to help and support you - the teachers, the lovely ladies at the school office, the Prefects, older students and your 'House family'. Please do ask for our help, ask us questions; we know how you feel, we have all been in your shoes. Likewise, if you see someone struggling to find their way or being left out, please give them a smile and a helping hand.

Good luck, work hard, be kind and enjoy every opportunity which comes your way.