Good morning to you all and welcome to 2011. My name is Brody Capewell and it is my great privilege and pleasure to be standing before you today as Tranby College Captain for 2011. To those that are new to our community I welcome you, and to those that are returning for another year I hope I find you rested and recuperated and ready for another promising year at Tranby College. This year at Tranby we can enjoy a mixture of activities and events giving us the opportunity to represent our house, our school and ourselves. Along with the numerous academic opportunities provided here we have the chance to achieve in the areas of sport, art and service. At Tranby we are encouraged to endeavour outside of the box; to try new things in order to find success and to find something we, as an individual, can achieve in. This can be in the form of playing a new sport, using diverse brush strokes in art, or it can be as straightforward as using a different equation in maths. We are encouraged to follow a similar path to success.

As many of you may know I love my sport. I have played a wide range of sports and have accumulated a lot of knowledge allowing me to link a skill I have learnt in one sport to another, improving my performance in each. This is what we are encouraged to do at school when we are learning. If we learn something in one subject there is nothing to say that we can’t use that information and knowledge to help us perform better in another area.

I started at Tranby in Term 2 Year 8 and to tell you the truth, I was incredibly scared. Coming from a small country school with a population of 200 students, to a school with 1000 students was a little overwhelming to say the least. Even so, I went to Mr Jenzen’s office and got taken to my class. Immediately after being introduced to the class a boy offered me a seat next to him and his friends and everyone started talking to me and being very welcoming, making everything so much easier for me. Over time this is what I came to expect from the students at Tranby; affability and care.
At Tranby College we strive for the values of respect, diligence and excellence at all times. Every individual is different in some way or another and Tranby encourages everyone to follow their own path. As Brittany Renée once said “I would much rather have regrets about not doing what people said, than regretting not doing what my heart led me to and wondering what life had been like if I'd just been myself.” At school we often want to do the same subjects as our friends to be together, instead of picking the subjects that will most benefit ourselves. You need to take it upon yourself to make sure that you are always striving to do what you enjoy and are good at, and this will be different from your friends. One thing I have learnt at Tranby is that it is important to be your own person, speak for yourself and carry your own dreams and ideas; not someone else’s.

In the coming weeks, we will all have the opportunity to participate in Inter-house swimming trials, followed closely by the carnival itself, of which I know a small number of you are probably dreading. These carnivals are not here to make you do something you are scared of or don’t like, they are an opportunity for you to challenge yourself and meet new peers. There are other ways to participate in the carnivals and this for you may be as a student helper or just supporting your house.

In my 4 years at the college I have noticed how incredible and unique the relationships within the school are in comparison with other schools. The interaction between students and staff members is astonishing, and the support between the two is what makes our community so special. This is especially visible on Tranby Day where students from all year groups come together as a whole. Bullying within our school is not often seen and I must say this is an incredible feat and one that we at Tranby should feel proud of. In saying this, the relationship between staff and students like this doesn’t just happen; it is the responsibility of all Tranby students to make everyone feel a part of our community and this is integral to our College.

In finishing, I ask you to set yourself some achievable goals – get there and make some new ones. You have to take everyday like it is going to be your last – so take every opportunity that comes your way and grasp them in both hands and make the most of them. For my fellow Year 12’s we have an extremely busy year ahead, so heads down, books open and there will soon be a light at the end of the tunnel. Good luck to you all and I wish you all a fantastic 2011.

Thank you

Brody Capewell
College Captain

February 1st 2011