As a proud student of 8 years here at Hopetown I am happy to say and I’m sure the staff are too, that I am finally graduating Year 12.

On behalf of all of the students we owe a huge thank you and appreciate the following people for another fantastic year.

To our teachers, thank you for all of the time you have spent in preparing lessons and for sharing your knowledge with us. Yes, we know it is your job to do it, but what you do for us goes beyond your job roles. You are willing to take us on as students and accept us for who we are. You have always taken the time to explain lessons clearly and have been patient to explain it again and again, when we aren’t paying attention. You ensure that you embarrass yourself to make our lessons interesting and fun, especially Ms Groundsell and her Pythagoras dance, and teach us life lessons that are meaningful in shaping our futures. You have high expectations and set goals for us to achieve and continue to motivate us through the good times and the bad.

To the school support staff and admin team, thank you for keeping our school organised, clean and safe. You know better than anyone else what slobs we’ve been. Thank you for being our cheer leaders and encouraging us to do our best. Thank you for cooking our breakfast, driving us around, sharpening our pencils and preparing the classrooms for the following day. Thank you for organising our transport, for paying the school bills, for making us laugh and for everything else that you do to make Hopetown School run smoothly.

To our principal Ms Reynolds and the executive team, Mr Malone, Mr Borodin and Ms Groundsell, thank you for keeping things running smoothly so our teachers can concentrate on us. Thank you for being brave enough to manage a bunch of boof heads like us. Thank you for showing up unexpectedly to help us calm down and to manage our emotions. Thank you for everything you do behind the scenes and for the long hours you put in. HopeTown would not be the amazing school it is today without you.

To our parents and carers, thank you for supporting us in more ways than it’s possible to count. You drag us out of bed every morning, make sure we are fed and ready for school each and every day. You herd us out the door to transport or drive us to school yourselves. You sympathise over our daily dramas and give us enough space to work things out for ourselves.

Thank you to the distinguished guests who have come here today to celebrate our achievements and for the roles you have played in our school community.