

Patrick Rahilly (2006 – 2010)

Hello my name is Patrick Rahilly I'm 18 years old and currently studying a bachelor of education at Australian Catholic University. I began my time at St James as a young 13 year old boy ready to venture off into the world of high school. On my first day I remember feeling very nervous and anxious, just the thought of having to make new friends was a daunting prospect to me. Before attending St James I had never caught a train, so for the first few days of Year 8 my mum would catch the train with me and walk me to school. After a while she said "just follow the kids wearing St James uniforms you will be fine". It didn't take me long to notice how close knit the kids at the school were.

Everyone I met on that first day was nothing but kind and helpful, they made me feel right at home. I noticed the traditions the school had. Every day walking into the school students would touch the crest at the front gate. To me it symbolised that I was stepping into a safe environment where I will be respected. Even to this day when I come into the school I always touch the crest at the front. So after a steady few months at the College I had managed to have a good support group of friends and before I knew it Year 8 was over. Years 9 and 10 are filled with terrific memories of playing basketball and touch football at lunch time with of course a little study in between. It was during these years I would make friendships I knew would stay with me for a long time. I took much advantage of the school's great sporting outlets supervised by the ever energetic Mr Ebrington. From sporting carnivals, Swimming Carnivals, Cross Country, Wednesday sport, World Cup Soccer, you name it, I was in it.

After Year 10 had finished I had to prepare myself for Years 11 and 12. I had the option of either the O.P. pathway or the Vocational education pathway. After discussions with my teachers and parents I decided to go for an O.P, which would help me pursue my career as a teacher. I could not have asked for better teachers in my senior years at the College. I had memorable debates with Ms Markey who was my Legal Studies, Economics and Religion teacher. The topics we discussed were important issues in society that we often had differing views on but I think we both learned a lot from each other. Then there was Ms Georgakis who taught me the value of note taking and time management which would hold me in good stead for university life. Ms Schaefer my Maths Teacher showed me the value of independent study, another important aspect of university.

Then my English teacher Mr Hall who showed me that Shakespeare was a pretty cool guy and in class we often had a brief philosophical discussion which always made me think about the big picture in life. Then Mr K my House Coordinator whose door was always open for a chat, whether I was having a rough day or just needed someone to talk to, he was always there for me. Then last but not least Ms Johnson my homeroom teacher who after every day would ask how I was and genuinely took an interest in my wellbeing. Just the little things she did made a big difference to me. With help from my teachers and fellow class mates I graduated from St James in 2010 no longer as a young boy but a young man prepared to take on the world and uphold the Jimmies spirit.