

James Arnold – 2025 School Co-Vice Captain
Hamish Featherston - 2025 School Co-Vice Captain
Keynote Speech, Legacy Project announcement

What does it mean to be a Tonner? What does it mean to each boy that puts on the blazer? It is a feeling no one outside these four walls will ever experience. It is a privilege, one that you uphold in honour of those alumni who have come before us and one that will instill passion in those to come.

Good afternoon Mr Featherston, Dr Swann, Mr Angus, Mrs White, our parents, sisters, staff, and boys.

On February 14, 1882, Dr George Henry Crowther founded our beloved school Brighton Grammar. Crowther's adopted motto, *Meliora Sequamur*, has been enriched in each and every boy who has walked through the gates of our school, demonstrating our unparalleled unity and desire to succeed as one.

Our school is a byproduct of our history. The efforts and triumphs of past Tonners have paved the way for us boys, creating a foundation that embodies passion, respect, integrity and accountability, allowing us to forge Crowther's legacy of pursuing better things. Our motto calls on all of us to work together as one and to continuously strive for good.

Brighton Grammar is renowned for its rich heritage and incomparable history, which has acted as a stepping stone to creating a culture in which people have pride in vowing their association with our school. A culture in which each Tonner can raise their voice in unification under the Oak, a culture which endorses excellence and thrives at the fulfillment in producing well rounded young men.

Each of us in this hall represents a small but important piece of our school, we have the opportunity to acknowledge our school's prestigious heritage through honouring those who have walked before us, by recognising those who have paved the way for our school's success. In doing so, we can aspire to be a community which harnesses a greater sense of gratitude towards our past, allowing us to act with the upmost respect, knowing that we are standing on the shoulders of others, honouring our history.

We are an incomparable community, we are a cohesive, passionate, and supportive school. We are fearless, do not stop and cannot be beaten, this is what it means to be a Tonner.

This school stands as a gateway to unparalleled opportunities, empowering each of us to chase our passions with determination and purpose. From venturing across the globe for the prestigious F1 in Schools competition to gracing the vibrant stages of New York alongside the Performing Arts team, we are given the chance to showcase our talents on an international scale. Beyond that, we cultivate unity and forge lasting bonds through the camaraderie of sporting camps, where teamwork and resilience are brought to life.

Let us embrace these moments and celebrate the journey we are on right now. These experiences are not just milestones - they are memories in the making, moments to cherish, and opportunities to grow in ways we never imagined. Each challenge we tackle, every bond we form, and every achievement we celebrate shapes the vibrant tapestry of Brighton Grammar.



Over the past few years, us Tonners have displayed an unmatched variety of talent and excellence. In this room we possess such a diverse, and distinct amount of capability. Each of us is gifted in our own unique ways, which has generated such success at BGS placing us within an elite calibre of independent boys' schools.

At the coalface of our core values at BGS is the celebration of our peers' successes. Recognising and celebrating the achievements of others should fill us with pride for the crest we wear. In doing so, we transform our school into a true community, where every boy is noticed as a vital part of our collective success. But what do we see? What do we feel?

We will tell you what we have seen. We have seen the guts and determination infiltrate throughout hikes, where boys want to drop their packs, eat, drink, and rest, We have heard chants reverberate through the Glenelg River, an act of pure defiance shielding us from gale force winds and freezing temperatures proving to everyone it's the idea of going as one and the idea of putting your arm around your fellow Tonner that drives us to the final destination. We have felt the emotion pour over in both losses and wins, We have felt the true and honest connection between year levels, we have felt the immense sense of pride seeing our mates receive study scores, this is what it means to celebrate each other.

We often say we are not defined by size but rather by the community and culture which has stemmed from the chants that echo around the Quad, the harmonic powerhouse of the Ten Tonners and the cultivating moments on the Crowther. Thus, as students of 2025, we ought to celebrate the success of our fellow Tonners big or small, creating a spotlight on our successes will establish a culture like no other, one where the team is put before the individual, and one where we can strive for greatness together in arms.

In the years ahead, each of us will play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of our school. The future of this remarkable institution, which so many of us proudly call home, rests upon our collective ability to carry the baton passed down through generations. Together, we must nurture and enhance the legacies that have been carefully built before us, while crafting a legacy of our own, one that will be permanently etched into the archives of Brighton's history.

It is now up to us to cement a culture in which we all dare to venture beyond our comfort zones, creating an environment where we can all welcome the future with open arms and look forward to embracing new and unforeseen challenges. As the class of 2025 walks out of the Quad for the final time, we want to ensure and guarantee that the School remains in good hands, enabling Brighton Grammar to stay true to Dr George Henry Crowther's vision 140 years ago, a sacred place and extraordinary school.

So we ask you today, to recognise and honour our past, celebrate and make the most of the moment we have, and embrace the next chapter of our schooling career, for the legacy we provoke this year, will be steeped in a history bigger than any one of us. It is now our pleasure to present to you today Brighton Grammar's 10th Legacy Project.

Honour, Celebrate, Embrace.

Thank you.