

Sunny King – Prefect (Armstrong House Captain)

Keynote Speech 2026

Every person in this room is moving through life, step by step, day by day.

We wake up, we work, we study, we plan for the future

But beneath all of that routine lies a quiet question that many of us try to ignore...why?

Why do we push ourselves through the difficult days? Why do we keep moving forward when life sometimes feels uncertain? Why do we search for something more?

Because deep down, every human is searching for something much, much greater- purpose.

Good morning, Mr Featherston, Mr Angus, Dr Swann, Ms Clark, my parents, teachers and boys.

Today I will be talking about something that may seem simple to some, but scary to others- finding your purpose. This is something we often hear about but rarely stop to actually understand.

Without purpose, we can spend years of our lives living someone else's definition of success. It is an endless cycle of ticking boxes and chasing goals that don't fulfil us as people and yet leave us wondering why it doesn't feel meaningful.

The problem is not that people don't care; it's that we are often taught what success should look like before we are given the chance to figure out what it actually means to us. Like we may be told that we need to achieve this ATAR, get that job, play in this sports team. Achieving these things may seem amazing to everyone, but something in us wants more.

It's important to say that finding your purpose is not a destination; it's a path we shape over time. It is shaped when we begin paying attention to what really makes us come alive - what interests us, what challenges us, what keeps us up at night. It comes alive once we start taking small steps toward what matters to us, even if we can't see the full picture yet.

And most importantly, purpose doesn't appear all at once. It's not one big moment that just clicks; it builds slowly through experience and mistakes. Once we stop searching for a perfect answer and start building through action, we may end up creating something meaningful, something special, and something better than we could have ever imagined.

Some of you may be sitting there thinking, 'I've got no idea what my why is', and to be completely honest, neither do I. Yet there seems to be a constant expectation that we are meant to have it all figured out. To make the right choices, pick the right university course, know exactly what you want to do in life, or become that perfect person.

Moving through this process can be as simple as thinking to yourself, What do I value? What challenges me? What makes me happy? Although I don't know what my purpose is yet, I know that I value the friendships I have, the support I receive from my family, the challenge that playing football gives me, and the eagerness to make the most of the opportunities this school provides to all of us.

Many of you may know tennis great Andre Agassi. A former number one tennis player in the world, eight time grand slam champion, and gold medal winner, who in his autobiography wrote a sentence that shocked the world. 'I played tennis for a living, even though I hate tennis, hate it with a dark and secret passion, and always have.' Agassi was pushed into the sport at a very young age, and despite his incredible success and great amounts of money as a result, it didn't matter to him; it wasn't his purpose.

Agassi transitioned his on-field success and well-respected status into his true passion, by creating the Andre Agassi Foundation, serving others by providing extra support to kids who face educational disadvantages. Although this has nothing to do with tennis, the reason he is so well known to this day, he has created something special and followed a passion that makes sense to him and only him.

He made it very clear that it doesn't matter what others think, as being a professional sportsman seems like the perfect life to millions around the globe, but it simply wasn't his.

After discovering the chance to help those kids in need, he was given a spark, the first spark he had ever felt, even after being at the highs of number one in the world and winning eight grand slam titles.

Before this time, he described himself as feeling empty, as many others may find themselves in a similar situation where they are seeing success, but not true satisfaction.

Agassi demonstrated that your purpose doesn't have to be something extraordinary, like being a professional sportsman, an incredible job, or making loads of money. It is simply something that drives you and has value to you.

Finding this passion makes us whole and gives us life; it's the thing that gets us out of bed in the morning. And without it, we are drifters, floating through life with no direction or destination. And regardless of success seen on the way, it means nothing if it's not what truly fulfils us as a person.



Everyone in this room has a unique set of skills and abilities, but it's up to you if they get put to good use. So stop waiting for life to make sense, and make life make sense.

So I challenge you today:

Find something that excites you.

Find something that matters to you.

And give it your attention.

Light that spark within you, and create your own fire

Thank you.