

## Valedictory Address 2009—Darryn Berry

Good afternoon Mr. Barker, ladies and gentlemen, School, and the gentlemen of E'09. I would like to begin my address by congratulating the new Prefect Body that will take office for the 2010 tenure. I wish Nicholas Melck and his Prefects the best of luck for the year to follow. You have been given an unbelievable responsibility; but what a privilege and honour it is. Lead well, make memories, and most importantly enjoy yourself.

I would like to now turn attention to the men sitting in front of me: E'09. What a journey we have traveled. From our early days in grade 8, where we stood in awe of this unbelievable school and the matrices that we thought to be monsters. Now we find ourselves at the finish line. The final straight has already passed us. Our journey has been a unique one, with many good times as well as some trying ones. If I had to reminisce about our High School career in its entirety we would be here for hours, because not one detail deserves to be ignored. This group of fine individuals has lived life at Rondebosch to the absolute fullest. Everyday was an adventure, and each year we grew together as a unit. I would like to bundle all of these memories and shared occasions into a phrase introduced to me by Sean Darge; a compendium of memories. These memories will be with us forever, and will be talked about and eagerly revisited and enjoyed for many years to come over a brooski or two.

The final year for E'09 has been eventful. At the beginning of the year, I told you that this year is going to pass us by extremely quickly, and I appealed to you all to make the most of everyday and get stuck into the business that needed to be attended to. I would like to confirm to you all that as a grade we have succeeded. I really believe that we have taken this School to new heights. Everyone has passed comment on how successful we have been, but no one has really pinned the sign up on the wall. I am doing it right now. Gents of E'09; we have delivered new levels of excellence all in honour of the fair name of our School.

Cabaret was the beginning. It was hectic, epic, out of control, ridiculous, over-board; whatever you want to say. It set the bar for our Matric year, and has set the bar for future Matric years too. Who can forget the hectic mosh pit, or Chris Faure's mind-boggling guitar solo behind his back, and the waves of girls screaming Chris Keet's name after his harmonica performance? No one will ever sing thunder-struck the way that Carl "Frodo" Eriksen sang it, and Luke Kirsten quite literally sang the best song in the world. It is from this platform that E'09 launched itself, and duly so we owe our greatest thanks to Mr Scarr and Ms Ghignone for forging our year. Without the efforts of these two outstanding people—educators not only of matter, but life—, our Matric year would certainly not have carried the same temperament and flair.

Next was Paarl Athletics. Crossing the boerewors curtain in the scorching heat on busses that were rocking with the cheers of the mighty Bosch Boys will be unforgettable.

Infinity was a memorable hit on that Friday afternoon bus trip. The noise that could be heard down the back straight on the track is spine-chilling just to think of.

The Newlands Gala was a grand occasion. Marching from our beloved Canigou Avenue to the Newlands Pool in full force, the vibe was set. The stands were packed with a sea of blue and gold supporters; and our swimmers rewarded the supporters with the trophy, winning by fifty points. Bruce and the Cheerleaders led the way on this fantastic day.

The Day-Night crickey was another good showing for Bosch. With Mike Riva, James Black, and Andrew Winter providing some superb sideline commentary, the night was eventful. Irrespective of the match result we brought the vibe and that is what really counts.

Tri-angular Athletics with Bishops and SACS is always a tough affair, and this year we hosted the meeting. The performances by the athletes were incredible, the best we've seen in a long time. The highlight is definitely taking three of the four relays. The under-19 relay was the ultimate prize, as this usually indicates the unofficial winner of the meeting. Having that win in the bag meant that E'09 had marked itself indelibly in the summer sports season.

Saturday Night Live, or SNL, then presented itself. After much debate, organising, and frustrations we put on a show that will never be forgotten and one which truly redefined Rondebosch. We were able to bond in a very special way as Matric students, and we also stamped our mark on the School. Who will ever forget the epic battle of Cavendish, an absolute classic. I don't think we will ever listen to Miley Cyrus' "Seven Things I Hate About You" the same way again thanks to Chris Keet and Luke Kirsten. It was a night that came to redefine a part of Rondebosch—this, gents, we can be truly proud of. We made something great out of absolutely nothing.

The winter sports season saw many achievements. The hockey side had a good and rewarding year, recording a respectable 66% win ratio. Peter led the team with great inspiration, fervor and passion and I can safely say that the boys gave everything they had during each match. Beating the unbeaten Bishops team 2-1 in the final game at home was unforgettable and rounded off the season superbly.

As a proud and passionate rugby player I would like to get stuck on the rugby season for a moment. To our captain Chad; you are a true warrior. You never showed an ounce of discontent for any situation. On the field you led us into battle week after week with guts and gore. To the team, I think it is safe to say that we accomplished a lot this year. We all had our moment to wear the famous red flair cap inducted into the team by the inspirational Thomas Vaughan, even Bands pulled off some memorable flair moments. I must commend each one of you for doing justice to the support we received by putting your bodies on the line week after week. We gave everything we had each game, and

overcame a lot of difficulties together as a team. What binds a team together is their ability to pick themselves up off the floor after tough times and carry on to do a job. This season we did exactly that. Beating Bishops on the Piley Rees two weeks after a dreadful Wynberg game to break a six year drought will be tattooed onto my heart forever. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June each year, I will remember the day we stood up to our rivals and showed all what a capable team we were and what a great School we belonged to. Remember it always: 16 – 10.

The support from the School was amazing throughout the year. The cheerleaders have been a source of spirit to our grade and to the School. You guys never stopped believing and showing the School the way forward. Bruce and his team have embedded in Rondebosch a true sense of gees and unity. A job accomplished flawlessly. Thank you.

Throughout the year, many people have shaped our grade. Many people have supported us, and have provided me personally with encouragement. These people will never be forgotten as without them we wouldn't be where we are today.

To my fellow Prefects; the support that you have shown me throughout the year cannot be described. Leading a school such as Rondebosch is no easy task, but as a group of guys that love their School we stepped up to the plate and set a benchmark that will be aspired to in the many years to come. I can't think of a day that we weren't busy or organising something, even despite the fact that we spent the majority of the year convincing Keet that he doesn't, in fact look, like Brad Pitt. We have accomplished some amazing feats in our term of office. Each one of you has continually given so much back to Rondebosch. For this I thank you. The days spent in the p-room will never be forgotten: from the morning meetings that never ceased to provide us with laughter, Kaptein blaring out of the Common Room, Stinky and the friends he brought in, learning from Pirates, to the book-slapping game that Varish never won. We have grown together like brothers, and I will cherish our relationships forever.

To my Deputy-Head Prefect Nick; words cannot do justice to the support and camaraderie you have shown me. You have been an inspiration to many, and for me it has been an honour to serve alongside you. Quite often you have reminded me to remain true to myself. You have remained a charismatic presence in the Prefect Body and amongst the grade. Quite literally at times, you have been the glue that holds us all together. You are a true Bosch boy, and I will be forever thankful for your support shown throughout the year.

To my parents, I will never be able to repay you for your continued love and support. It has been a tough year for us all, with many exciting times as well as some times less pleasant. Nevertheless we pulled through as a family, and to me you are the ultimate role models. To have gone through the year with the knowledge that you will be behind me every step of the way has been tremendously comforting. Thank you!

To the staff, on behalf of E'09 I would like to thank you for your support, guidance and patience. It isn't always easy to connect with a matric class, but we hope that you have cherished the times spent with the gents of E'09. You have shaped a part of us and our experiences here, as well as given us the most powerful tool for life—education; and for this we owe you everything. We thank you for your willingness to accept our sometimes rowdy behaviour and to share in the memories that we have made over the year. Particularly, to Mrs. Ogilvie: Ma'me thank you for never saying no to any of our ideas and for assisting us in any way that you could, always putting our interests and needs before your own and anyone else's.

To Mr. Barker: Sir you will be forever remembered for your committed excellence to Rondebosch. Your support and affection for our grade has been both heartwarming and encouraging. It is comforting to know that the man in charge of this institution has a good deal of respect for the Matric year. Truly sir, you have the ultimate respect from E'09 and the Prefect Body—irrespective of what our actions might at times have said—and we thank you and wish you well always.

To Mr. Harmuth, our grade head; who will ever forget you and what you have done for us? You have been a stronghold this year. It would still have been awesome to see you at our matric dance after party, but we know you were otherwise pre-occupied. You have earned the respect of the grade through your perceptiveness and biting wit. Most importantly though Sir, you are truly passionate about our year and every guy. You are a true legend and we look forward to seeing you at our reunions as an honorary class member of E'09.

To Mr. Erasmus, your generosity and care for our year has meant more to us all than you know. You have sheltered our year and allowed us to flourish. Your genuine interest in E'09 went miles insofar as heightening our experiences at Rondebosch. It was because of you Sir, that we surely are a cut above the rest.

To Mnr. Nel, the time and energy that you give to this School is admirable. You serve as a father figure to the prefects, who can turn to you for guidance and help. I hope that you have enjoyed the year as much as we have. We will miss you, as well as your amnesias and trips to the airport, and will remember you for the guiding light and friend that you are to us.

What lies ahead is unknown. What I am certain of, though, is the fact that we have an ideal future ahead. We will all do great things in life. In a year filled with memories, we need to bank these all into one place, and move forward in life. We have served our term at Rondebosch, and we have left a legacy. Now it is time for us to create a new chapter in our lives.

The friendships that we have made have shaped us as individuals. I am a firm believer in forming bonds that will carry you through good and bad times. All of us have formed

these bonds with each other, and this you can hold onto forever. We have all become Rondebosch gentlemen and we can now apply this in our years to come.

Obviously we will all be going our separate ways over the next few months. Thinking of this is sad, but it is both promising and exciting to think that it is not the end. We will meet up again, in places unimaginable, and talk of Rondebosch and of E'09. I believe that each one of you will squeeze the best out of life, so believe in yourselves. I want to see Michael Duffet performing on an international stage one day. I want to see Gary Topkin playing for the Springboks. I want to have an operation performed by Louw Naudé or Peter Schweltnus and maybe even Varish. I want to see Noah arguing with the politicians of our world, and Bands building a rocket to send to the moon. Most importantly, I want to see us all making a success of our lives.

We are privileged to have attended a school like Rondebosch. You will come to realise this one day when you are doing what ever it is you dream of doing. We have been given a foundation to work from that few have experienced. What's more is that we have had the privilege of being a part of E'09. We were part of a legacy that embodied more than just physical achievements. We share a bond that can never be broken, that we can turn to in times of need, and that can influence our path in life.

E'09 used to be a whisper, a mere thought. We have transformed something mellifluous into a legend. This legend will be told over and over again, and this is special. Remember each other; remember the faces, the laughs, the conversations, and the pranks. Remember the paper fights in English, and the chill periods in Afrikaans. Where "wys me flames" came from nobody knows, but remember it. Remember Janus. Remember Professor Ebs' Gatsby days, maybe we will even be back here next year for another one ...,inaha'Allah. Remember Harmy's jokes. Remember the art and design boys and their record high averages and rather impressive bunking record. Remember the times spent out on the Matric Lawn, and the countless break-time soccer games up on Oakhurst Field. Remember Life Orientation lessons with Tracy. Remember the flames bus and the chanting on the sides of the sports fields. Remember Tuesday tie day, as well as 'tache and hats day. Remember the string spider-webs that laden the corridors, and the day that we shook the grounds of this very hall with our rolling marbles. These things are unique and special. And they are ours. They belong to E'09 and no one can take them away from us.

At the beginning of the year we linked arms around the Matric Lawn. From that day on we grew. We became men. I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to have led this group of fine gentlemen. It has been the utmost privilege. I humble myself to think of the legacy that was E'09. So to you E'09, farewell. May God be with you on your journey, and may the Bosch spirit be alive inside of you forever. For everything that we have done, for everything we have achieved, for the memories, and for what lies ahead, I salute each one you. And so, for one last time gents, *Altius et Latius*.