



BOY'S SCHOOL CAPTAIN SPEECH

They say people are born with leadership, but I believe it's forged within our past experiences. Leadership is shown differently across everybody, and I believe everyone in this hall has had a situation where there was no choice but to step up, but this, this is my choice.

Good morning parents, teachers and fellow students of Orara High School. My name is Cohen Gorza-Jones and I am here before you today, striving towards taking over one of the honourable positions as your school captain for 2024.

I have always thought of myself as a great leader outside of these school grounds, while I'm on the pitch I'm the person people tend to look up to. But ultimately, I have come to realise that my school doesn't see me as that. They see me as somebody else, somebody that I myself don't even recognise, and this speech here is my way of showing you who I really am.

Before I begin, I'd like to ask everyone to think about what leadership means to them. Obviously, leadership is the ability to lead but how well can you truly do it? How well can you work with others while making each other better in the process?

Are you able to admit when you're wrong while not shying away from the consequences? Are you able to step up when the odds are against you. Are you able to work under pressure when everyone else is looking up to you. Are you able to stand alone, knowing you're doing the right thing when no one else is there to stand by you. Those are the statements I believe a great leader should be able to relate to and be able to tick off, and if those characteristics are who you want as your captain for 2024, let me further delve into why I want to be your school captain.

As a society, we tend to brush off the reality of each other's lives, painting a picture of individuals in which they completely aren't. Us, yes, I'm talking about Us, as a school, and Us, as a community tend to miss the little things and make closed off assumptions that wouldn't cross somebody's state of mind. Without judgment, if you truly take a second to look at the person to your left and right, how well do you really know them? Underneath all of those closed off layers, do you know how kind-hearted and loving they are? What are THEIR dreams, what are THEIR aspirations, we never really know how talented someone could be, maybe they themselves don't even know it yet.

Like I'm sure the majority of people in this hall had no idea I start most of my days at 4:30 in the morning, training almost 3 times a day, in turn still balancing an impressive education to pursue my dreams in Football. Or for Woody and Sommers in case they didn't know, I'm talking about Soccer. And before you go thinking I'm just standing up in front of you all to gloat about how early I wake up, I'm truly not.

We all have different dreams and aspirations, mine are just to become a professional footballer. This is where Us, as a society, I believe can change for the better. You see, false interpretations, and accusations of me may lead you to think I couldn't possibly be the right person for the job. And I'm just a student in year 11 trying to chase his dreams. I know I'm not perfect, and leadership isn't always about being perfect. But I believe this position as your school captain is perfect for me.

I want to spark change in the way we view things. As a young athlete and student, interpretations on which we convey people matter too much, leaving no room for mistakes. This makes people afraid to chase after their dreams, their aspirations. As your school captain or not, over the next year I want to help leave a forever lasting effect in the way we view people, leaving room for error so people in our community aren't afraid to chase after their dreams.

I couldn't ask for better people around me who allow me to follow mine, with that being said I want people to know that I am here for you. To be an ear, to be a sense of voice, in whichever area you need to overcome. So, the next question is "How big would you dream if you knew you couldn't fail" That's the thought that gets me out of bed every morning when everyone else wouldn't think to be awake. That's the thought that goes through my head while I'm training when everyone else is out with their friends. That's the thought that keeps me going forward when the urge to quit starts to creep in. So why can't it be the next step for you? Being a true leader isn't about not giving up, or not having bad days, but how one reacts to challenges, and obstacles, shows who the true leaders are.

A leader's voice holds a remarkable power that extends beyond just words. As a leader people look up to you, people look to you as a role model, as someone to chase to better themselves, and even as a sense of voice. Every little thing you say to someone can matter so much to them, something as little as your year advisor saying "we should get your autograph early so we have it when you're famous" or your classmates saying "we should get a photo so we have it when your famous" can matter so much to somebody keeping them determined in whatever they do.

So, for me, becoming your school captain means so much more than just the title or a green blazer. It embodies the idea of being a role model, a friend, and even an inspiration for my peers to chase. If before I go, I can leave you with one thing as you move forward, it would be that becoming your school captain will undoubtedly push me towards continuing to become a better version of myself. In this journey, I hope to further encourage my peers and even you in this audience to become a better version of you. Thank you.