On the 25th of April 1915, a group of volunteer Australian and New Zealand soldiers found themselves wading ashore before dawn at a small beach on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey; now known as ANZAC cove. They were members of the Australia and New Zealand army corps, and called themselves ANZACs. Many of the ANZACs were only teenagers, some as young as 16, the age of many of you out there, today. As Australia and New Zealand where both still very young countries, The ANZACs were anxious to prove their position in the world, to gain a reputation at war, to prove themselves. The events of that day have formed an unbreakable foundation for the rest of the Australian and New Zealand forces as well as the rest of the countries in the world.

In that terrible battle at Gallipoli, and in the associated hospitals and training camps, young ANZACs earned a reputation for courage, self-reliance and mate ship. The experience drew Australians together as a nation and established an Australian character and set standards for all the soldiers, sailors and airmen who followed them in the First World War, and in all subsequent wars, becoming the foundation of our nation.

Courage, Self-reliance and Mate ship. All characteristics that are part of the ANZAC sprit and are attributes that we, as young men of MBBC should endeavor to demonstrate.

As the ANZACs waded onto the shores of Gallipoli there was fear in all of their hearts. Fear of the darkness ahead, fear of the distance between them and home, Fear that they wouldn't make it to see tomorrow. They kept going. Every single one kept pushing forward. These men showed great courage in what they did on that day in 1915. They didn't hide their fear, however over powered it and worked through it. As young men, we should all show great courage in what we do, everyday. We should over power our fears and not let them lead us. These ANZACs did not let fear lead them and neither should we. Be bold, dare to try new things and don't be afraid of failure, rather learn from it and challenge yourself to improve.

Mate ship is a famous aspect of the ANZAC sprit and great mate ship was shown in Gallipoli by the ANZACs. It's the people that we have around us that make us who we are. It's our mates who we live for and who in situations when life gets tough it's our mates who we look to. Here at school it is important to practice mateship – to look after each other, stand up for what's right and stand beside fellow students in good times and bad. Be there for one another.

But in some situations it’s ourselves that we have to look to for support. Our mates can back us up, but it’s from within ourselves that we get our drive. Its from within ourselves that we decide to push though any tough times, to accomplish what we have to, and to come through for the people around us, who rely on us. By looking within ourselves, practicing that self-reliance, that you are sure to find a better person, someone others can rely on.

The young men on the shores of Gallipoli, almost 100 years ago, were wearing nothing heavier to protect themselves than what we have on today. And yet they conquered their fears and kept pushing forward. On the 25th of April 1915 every single Anzac soldier kept pushing forward and kept fighting for a cause that they all believed in. The bravery that they showed should be an inspiration for all of you out there today. Inspiration to look within yourself to find what's right. Inspiration to look too your mates when times get tough and be there for them. Inspiration to conquer your fears and keep pushing forward.

It is my privilege and honor to share this year’s ANZAC day with you.