Opening Service with Staff & Captains installations

[instructions for where students and speakers will sit]

**WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDEGMENT OF COUNTRY:**

At the commencement of our service we acknowledge God as our provider who is sovereign over all and whose creative hand we see within ourselves, in each other and in the world around us.

We also acknowledge the original custodians of this land, the [name of local indigenous people] people. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australians.

I now invite [name of pastor/chaplain] to open our school year.

**Pastor/Chaplain:** I open this school year at [name of school] in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**BIBLE READING: (school leader)**

[appropriate Bible reading]

**Reader**: This is the word of the Lord.

**Response**: **Thanks be to God.**

**BRIEF MESSAGE**

**INSTALLATION OF NEW STAFF** **(see separate document)**

**INSTALLATION OF STUDENT LEADERS** **(see separate document)**

**WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES (see separate document)**

**PRAYERS:** Let’s now pray for our School as we start this new year. After each prayer the leader will say “Lord in your mercy” and I invite you to respond with the words “Hear our prayer.”

**School Captain:** Dear Lord, we pray for our school as we begin a new year. We ask that you be with our new students and families, that you would calm their fears and give them your peace.Help the students who are returning to enjoy seeing old friends, and give all students an eagerness to learn, clear minds, respect for each other, honour for their teachers and love for you.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

**School Captain:** Dear Lord, we pray for our staff as they begin a new year. Help our new staff to quickly settle into their roles. Fill them with your love and thankfulness, that they may teach their students faithfully and to the best of their ability, and bless their relationships with each other, their students, and the school families.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

**School Captain:** Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray your blessing on our student leaders this year. Help them to lead with wisdom and integrity and to honour you in all they do. We thank you for the gifts and talents of all our student leaders and ask that you would send your Holy Spirit to guide them and to use their gifts to your glory and for the encouragement of their classmates, staff and the whole school community.   
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

**School Captain:** Dear Lord, we thank and praise you that you promise to journey with us through life. We ask now that you walk with us this year, that you send your Holy Spirit to guide us; that this year will be one of great learning, of growth in faith and love for each other. Keep us close to you in times of trouble and help us to be Jesus’ hands and feet to those around us when they go through tough times. Bless all in our school community.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

**LORD’S PRAYER:**

**BENEDICTION:** May the Lord bless you and keep you today and always. **Amen.**

**SONG**

**CLOSING REMARKS: (Principal)**