College Captains Graduation Speech

Already. It’s the end of the year already. A thought that many of you are likely to have including myself. Graduation used to be this concept of which we could only dream; now, we find ourselves in that very moment. I remember hearing from the previous Year 12 cohort and how they said these two years were going to be a blur; they were not wrong. Over these two years, so much has happened; memories unforgettable, both filled with joy and sorrow. This rollercoaster of a ride that is our formal scholastic lives is coming to a stop. Perhaps some of us can say “Thank God, finally. I wanna get off”, but I do know that there is a part in each one of us that wants to cling on to the sentiment of remaining this way. However, moving on is a part of being human. Just as we have done for the past thirteen years of our lives, we move forward.

Personally speaking, these two years have been a time of growth and self-realisation. From the moment I entered those gates to standing here, it has been a long journey of battling, falling and picking myself back up again. In retrospect, I am so happy to be able to say that this last year of my high school life has been one where I have lived to the full. To all my teachers who have been with me and for me since day one, I could not have done it without you. I am so thankful to have teachers who have given their time and effort not only to teach me as a student but simply as a person who is also living life. From the constant quick checkups to the comprehensive conversations, with my whole heart, I am grateful.

Moreover, extra-curricular activities have been a major for me this year. With being given the privilege of being College Captain, serving and being with you, I am incredibly proud of us as a cohort. With the CRC Italy Trip, as I left home and went abroad without family for the first time in my life, I got to catch a glimpse of what the world looks like outside our own bubble; the Les Misérables musical production, having the absolute honour of playing a lead role, I worked with some of the most hard-working, kind-hearted and loving people - my musical theatre family. All of these moments will forever be a part of me as I cherish them going out into the world. And these are just my personal achievements. I’m sure I can speak for all of us in that we all have achieved so much in our time here. We have celebrated together, laughed together, cried together and loved together. It is in those times where we become so human, we shine the brightest.

And so now, to the Class of 2019, finally; having our whole lives leading up to this moment, it seems surreal. But I would like to say that all of you should be proud of yourselves. No matter what came our way, we found it in ourselves to keep going. I admire you all for that. We are all wonderful in our own beautiful ways. Above the noise of celebration, I want each of you to know that it is through being yourself and believing in yourself and loving yourself that you will become a beacon of light to this world. Thus, I have come to the realisation that, indeed, it is already the end of the year, however, it is just the beginning of the rest of our lives. Taking on board all the lessons we have learned, let us use them in life as we are sent forth beyond just school. It is now time to see the world, pursue our dreams, reach our potential and live our lives for, if we set our mind to it, we can do anything. Congratulations, Class of 2019, we’ve got this.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Soriano
Student, Chang 5

Good evening, parents, staff and year 12's or should I say graduates? Forget that I am College Captain and listen to me as a regular student. What a wild year it has been. From cramming the night before a SAC to pulling an all nighter and to the most popular phrase commonly asked the period before its due, "wait, what was the homework?". This year has been a very intense cycle of balancing school life, social life and personal life. A balancing scale only has two sides but we managed to balance three things and for that every breathing person in this room should feel proud of themselves for achieving this amazing fete. And this indefinitely includes parents and staff for their unrivalled guidance. My Dad would always say "you could do better"but then secretly whisper "I am so proud of you". Even though I was offended for a split second, those sincere words touched my heart and became my motivation to successfully complete this year. And to the staff who always gave up their mornings, lunchtimes, afternoons to provide moral and educational support, we students extend our biggest and greatest thank you. As it is you the staff and the parents who have propelled us students to do more and most importantly to be more.

In light of personal growth, I ask you students to ponder upon these questions 'How successful have you been this year?' and 'Did you give 110% effort?'. Your answer to these questions might be no and surprisingly I am here to tell you that it is okay... but only if you reflect upon your actions and see your past as a learning opportunity to improve your habits. Since as Jim Rohn said "Your life does not get better with chance, it gets better with change". So now I pose the question, 'What are your aspirations?' and 'What will you change to achieve those aspirations?'. Whether or not you have told your family or friends your plans, I know that each and every one of you have a goal, an ambition, a dream. And I also believe that each and every one of you are more than capable of achieving anything that you set your mind to. And DO NOT let anyone ever tell you otherwise.

So far, I have mentioned that if there is something that you should be proud of, it is your resilience in completing this year and something that you should learn from is your past decisions but one thing I ask that none of you forget is to give back to the community and help the unfortunate. We are usually so wrapped up in our own lives but ask yourselves, 'How often do you think about those that are destitute?'. 'How often do you think about children witnessing bloodshed across the globe?', 'How often do you think about people dying of starvation and hunger to the point where their bones are graphically protruding?', 'How often do you think about the 21 million people being forced into modern day human slavery?'. As you enter into the new chapter of your lives, thinking about such issues is not enough. You must act to change these issues, as lending a hand to some people may not change the world but it could change the world for those people. Or better even, you might actually change the world and I know all of you are more than capable of doing so.

And as God's masterpieces remember that all of you have the potential to be prosperous, charitable and victorious in the new part of your lives. God bless, good luck and congratulations class of 2019!

Kind regards,

Tio A