

Headmaster's Graduation Ball Speech 2020

Dear graduating students, dear parents, dear teachers, dear friends, dear guests. Tonight is my favourite night of the year, well second favourite, I still really like my birthday! Anyway as teachers just like your parents, we watch your journey with a combination of pride, concern, frustration and to quote Mrs Švejdvá's favourite word, joy!

Your theme is Casino, amazing tickets, by the way. Casino is a world of glamour, hope and dreams. In the real casinos of this world, hopes can be dashed, dreams can fade and glamour can become tarnished. But you have no need for uncertain dreams as your futures are already burning brightly, and the glamour here tonight is simply breathtaking.

Real casinos also operate in a world of risk. And you took a risk by agreeing to changing the time-worn format of tonight's event by warmly welcoming our Year 1 students to join your wonderful occasion. That is a mark of your openness and your willingness to be inclusive and take risks - see what I did there? IB learner profile reference!

I would like to take a few moments to celebrate those around you: your friends, your families and your teachers. Thank you. Thank you, parents, for trusting us to support these wonderful young adults for the last six years. My gratitude for this trust applies equally to those Year 1 parents here tonight. Thank you for that same trust and for you guys - diaries out please! We'll see you here, same time, same place in just under 1800 days - a mere 5-years from now!

Casinos also operate in a world of chance. So what are the chances? What are the chances that you will have wonderful, rich and fruitful lives. 100%, plus or minus. What are the chances that us, teachers, will remember our dance steps and not embarrass you too much in the student teacher dance? 90% plus or perhaps a bit more minus as we are mostly English. What are the chances of there being a completely expected unexpected choreographed surprise of some kind at 10 o'clock? 100% no pluses or minuses on that one.

What are the chances of some of us accidentally leaving the European Union midnight? Yep, just 4½ hours to go until us Brits or at least our last metros home will all turn into pumpkins. Yeah, sorry about Brexit, but happily we can completely bury that bad news under the most wonderful event of the year: Your Graduation Ball.

Your Graduation Ball It's sparkly, it's fun, it's grand, it's pumpkin-free and it's right here and right now. Please enjoy it! Vaše maturitní ples. Je oslnivý, je zábavný, je velkolepý, postrádá dýně a je teď a tady. Užijte si ho! Hodně štěstí a děkuji.