



CHAIR'S SPEECH AT GRADUATION CEREMONY 2016

Dear Guest of Honour, Constantino Michael (and forgive me for addressing you like that but being so young I think that your age permits me to)

Dear Headmaster, Dear Distinguished Guests,

Dear Parents and Friends of our School,

Dear members of Staff and most of all dear Graduands.

If we all close our eyes for a second and go down memory lane we will feel that it was only yesterday when you, Graduands, first stepped into the School yard proud of "MAKING IT", of passing the entrance exams of the most prestigious school in the whole of Cyprus.

Here we are all today to celebrate the end of this 7-year successful voyage. A trip that took you to all the paths and corners of life: that of academic excellence (and here I have to emphasize that this year they were second to none), that of athletic and sports high achievements (Kyriacos Solomonides was awarded the prize for Top Youth Male Squash player in Cyprus for 2015) that honour not only our School but the whole of Cyprus by reaching PanEuropean top levels, that of culture: like our student Cleopatra Olympiou who has been receiving awards in poetry for years, but most of all in the avenue of personal development.

You have experienced a lot of hard work, a lot of stress, a lot of fun, a lot of everything. Because, after all, this is what the English School is all about.

Your teachers have opened up horizons for you, have taught you how to learn, how to behave, how to fly, because most of all our School values very highly the personal development, the proper character. As Mahatma Gandhi said: Literary Education is of no value, if it is not able to build up a sound character. (A personality that does NOT know how to respect, how to appreciate and how to give is not worth much). Allow me at this point to make special mention to our students of yr.7 in the "We care, We help" club who in between tests and practices found the time to paint, refurbish homes of less fortunate families, find new furniture and other stuff for them and in general support these families at the expense of their personal needs and free time. I would ask our students..... to stand up and receive a big round of applause as a small gesture of our congratulations.



Special congratulations go also to our leaver Constantinos Lordos who will represent Cyprus(together with another two of our students) in the World Geography Olympiad that will take place in China. In this competition six of the top 7 places were taken by our students. Constantino.....

A very big BRAVO goes also to our D&T Department because in a World competition of Formula 1 where 40 countries and over 20million students took part, our students are among the selected ones who will take part in Austin Texas(USA) in October. Please applaud Petros Xenophontos, Andreas Antoniadis, Panayiotis Salatas and Odysseas Petrou.

Take all these gifts along with the friendships you have made and cherish them because they will accompany you for the rest of your life. As of tonight you will belong to the ESOBGA, the Alumni of our School. I am sure that if I were to ask all present Alumni to stand up, these would be more than you 157 7th Formers here today. Why? Because they still carry with them all that they were taught at the English School, and that has helped them through their way 'NON SIBI SED SCHOLAE'(not for myself but for my School). Speaking of which, right now our ESOBGA Basket-Ball Team is playing the final game in the Premier Amateur Basket-ball Cup and hopefully in a couple of hours they will be the champions for this year.

Your School has paved your road to the future, and tonight we are officially giving you the key of the prosche that is waiting for you to drive you through the trip of life.

Thanks to the choice that your parents made for you seven years ago to bring you to the English School, you have been foot-ballers of 'REAL CYPRUS'. With the best coaches around you, some of you were trained to be the best strikers, others very good defensive players and others excellent goal-keepers. But all of you definitely with the best credentials to allow you to belong to any 'CHAMPIONS LEAGUE' that you choose to join.

The football match you are about to embark on will be the longest ever – the match of real life. Do not be afraid to grasp as many passes that come to your 'feet' ! Be bold, be daring, you know how to strike because you were taught well ! You will be kicked, you will be hurt, you will fall. So what?? YOU can stand up....YOU can sweep the pain away and rise! Afterall this is what makes the joy of achieving even greater.

Rise to life's challenges, grasp the right opportunities, which we are confident you will do because you were taught to have a critical mind. You know you can do it, and so do we.

But remember, whatever you decide to do, do it well: with ETHOS, with RESPECT, with DIGNITY.

BE WORTHY CITIZENS of this country that is in such big need of!



I believe there is no future in a nation without honourable citizens. Honour yourselves, thus honouring your families and your country. Make the best for yourselves and your country. Rise above us and achieve more than we have. Be wise and be correct. Look beyond any immediate satisfaction. Put personal biases aside, put into action all that you have been taught and practising for seven years without losing coherence. Be conscious of doing the right thing in the right context, at the right time, based on a true understanding of righteousness.

Make good judgements, weigh up your options wisely, capture the uniqueness of each situation and then ACT responsibly.

Each one of you is unique. A separate 'piece of art'. We believe in you and what you are all capable of achieving. Do what you are about to do with love, with care and excitement, and your vision will NOT fail you. BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE! Do not expect others to do it for you.

We wish you ALL well and the best of luck in all you will be endeavouring to accomplish in your future.

Thank you

