

# 6th Year Graduation Speech

Good afternoon everybody!

You're very welcome here tonight, to celebrate with all of us, as we, the class of 2018 come to the end of what has been a hard, emotional but rewarding time in each of our lives.

I'll take you back!

Six years ago, we entered through the doors of St. Laurence College, and into what we felt back then, the gauntlet that awaited us. It wasn't as bad as we thought. We knew it would be daunting but we accepted the challenge with open arms. The biggest challenge back then was remembering the school policy regarding its one way system; If you'd forgotten anything in your locker- tough; another lap of the school there lads and lasses. But, as we grew the respect for the policy grew along with the respect we learned to give and receive from each other which was clear to see over the years. First year, second year and by third year it seemed we were thinking alike. We wanted to move in the same direction, working together towards our goals and, it has to be said that our attitude towards our learning was not only inspired by each other but by the positive attitudes of the teachers who've taught us over the 6 years.

For us, St. Laurence College is a place where great memories have been made. One such memory was in first year, when we went to the brothers house for hot chocolate and marshmallows. Another memorable trip that will stay with us forever was our TY trip to Berlin. As a group, that trip brought us closer but as individuals helped us to become independent, more brave and less afraid to make choices for ourselves. It helped us to find our voice and speak up for ourselves for what we wanted or did not want. I could tell you lots of things about Berlin, but as the saying goes "What happens in Vegas( or in our case Berlin) stays in Berlin", isn't that right Ms. McCarry and Ms. McCarthy?. Another memory that we will cherish forever is the opening of our time capsule, which was on tuesday. We had a great laugh together.

St.Laurences is also a place where bonds and friendships are built, tried and tested and I'm very proud to say we're among friends tonight. The toughest of times were made a little easier because of the amazing support we knew was standing behind us; watching our backs. The happy times shared by one and all. And so, we've reached the final stretch. We're nearly there, but we couldn't have done it without you, the St. Laurence College staff and of course the Marianist brothers who still to this day continue to spread their message of faith, community and love which were the foundation of the Marianist tradition of learning and still remain as important today as they did back then. We'd like to offer our sincerest gratitude to the brothers, the teachers and all of the staff here at St. Laurence College for ; well, putting up with us for a start! No seriously, for passing on your knowledge with the upmost professionalism and passion; your patience on the days we "just didn't get it" and above all for staying true to the characteristics of Marianist education.

There are lots of ways to explain the Marianist tradition of teaching or what it has been like to have been taught in that way. Who better to explain it than the man who invented it, William Joseph Chaminade-" I am like the brook that made no effort to overcome obstacles in its way. All the obstacles can do is hold me up for a while; as a brook is held up. But during that time it grows broader and deeper and after a while it overflows the obstruction and flows along again. This is how I am going to work."

I'd now like to take the opportunity to thank a number of people. First I'd like to thank the maintenance and staff for all your help in preparation for tonight. To Ms. Conti for the beautiful artwork, it looks amazing. To Ms. Byrne, for baking our graduation cake. You're an amazing home ec teacher and no doubt the cake will taste amazing. To Ms. McBride for co-ordinating tonight, everything ran so smoothly we couldn't have done it without your help. To Fr. Mike for the lovely mass. To Ms. Morgan for all of your help over the years, particularly this year for taking the time to help us with college applications. To Mr. Redmond, you've been a great principal to us and all the other pupils over the years, thank you for your interest not just as pupils but as individuals. And Mr. Coffey, thank you for your continuous support over the last few years. As a year head you have got to know each and every one of us and have been proactive throughout our educational journey. Thank you for your guidance, your honesty and your dedication to push us to be the best we could be. Thank you for all the friggles, we'll never forget you.

Actually sir, can you come up here for one minute please? **Pause.** On behalf of all your 6th year students, this is a small token of our appreciation, and we hope you like it.

