

Graduation Address 16 May, 2008 by Jackie Fox, Head Girl

This is possibly the most difficult thing I've ever had to do. I thought I would never be able to deliver a ten minute speech, talking about the last 5 and 6 years of our lives here in the Presentation.

I'm positive that when we all came together for the first time in 5th year, we all felt and thought many different things.

We did not know how to face the hyped-up Leaving Cert.

We did not know how we were going to react to new faces.

We did not know whether we would even get along with these girls.

We did not know that things would change but we all had one thing in common - we were all stepping into the daunting and terrifying unknown.

We did not know of the special friendships that would be created - the endless amount of memories, the never ending jokes.

Our theme '**Footprints**' represents our precious journey in this school. These will stay with us for the rest of our lives; whether it is a photograph on a dresser, a note stuffed into a diary, a secret Santa present, an inside joke, a ticket from a school trip, or even a meaningful comment on Bebo!

This is only one milestone in our lives and another one is soon about to begin. Like footprints, special occasions in our lives do not last forever. However, we can always remember and cherish them. No matter where we are in years to come when we are older and possibly have a couple of grey hairs on our heads, we will still have each other to reflect on these exact moments and be able to laugh or even cry about them.

It may sound weird or maybe even unbelievable at this moment but imagine this time next year, where will we be? Some of us may be exploring a foreign country or finishing our first year of college. We won't have the doom and gloom of the Leaving Cert hanging over us but we will be experiencing things we never imagined. But also, just remember, during the exams the best way to reduce stress is to laugh. They say that laughter is the best medicine and it would even make you live longer. At least we know that Samantha and Sarah will have long lives !

It's incredible to think of so many of our different achievements and adventures.

Many of us have completed the Bronze Gaisce, to much acclaim and we have done pretty well in a Phone Jewellery Mini-Company.

Others have performed at Christmas shows, to reveal their blossoming talent to the school.

A number have bravely encountered fears which they proved could be overcome

Our achievements may be big or small but even if it's only defeating public speaking nerves or reaching that awkward note in a song, they all made us feel special in some way and made us proud of ourselves.

Our school trips have always shown the strong unity between us. Whether it was the trip to Barcelona, Italy or even Esker we represented our school well and had the best possible fun while doing so.. We talked to people and bonded with those whom we thought were polar opposites of us. We jumped on mattresses, painted each other's faces, took the most ridiculous pictures, held quadruple surprise parties and had a sing along on the beach in the early hours on the Aran Islands, walked the cobblestone streets of Venice. One of us even tried to impress Sr.Gabriel with our driving skills in Esker! We ate mountains of food that we would never eat back home, faced a rat head-on in Delphi, and sometime during all these trips we managed to do a little shopping .. not like Aisling who bought out 90% of the stock in the shops in Barcelona!

All know is that I couldn't have imagined spending the last 6 years with the friendliest, funniest and honest girls I've ever met! Every girl here is special and talented and there is no reason on this earth why any of you should think otherwise. In the last 5 and 6 years we have done nothing but make our school proud. At least I hope so!

Before I finish, on behalf of the Leaving Cert class we'd like to thank the teachers for their support and interest throughout the years here in the Presentation. We'd like to thank you for leading us and guiding us because without that extra push, bit of pressure and words of encouragement we wouldn't be the people we are today. We'd especially like to thank the teachers who made this day possible, Mr.McGuinness, Sr.Gabriel and Ms.Coughlan and we'd like to present them with a gift as a token of our appreciation..... And last but not least we'd like to present Mrs.Curran with a going away gift as she is retiring this year. We'll miss you!

I was looking at quotes online when I came across several from people like Aristotle, Edison to Oscar Wilde but I found one that represented friendship in an easy and beautiful way. It's from a very influential woman of our time and someone everyone can relate to.

"Lots of people want to go with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down." Oprah Winfrey

I wish you all the best for the future and I hope all your dreams come true. Go n-éirí an bóthair libh agus go raibh míle maith agaibh.