

Prize Day Speech 2016

(Greetings)

Although my school career is coming to an end, to me, it only seems like yesterday that I was sitting at the back of the sports hall, as a shy, Year Eight pupil, feeling eager and enthusiastic to embark on my journey as a pupil of Wellington College. Six years later, it is a great pleasure to be attending prize day, once again, to acknowledge and reward outstanding achievements within the college over the past year.

The Prize day ceremony has always inspired me, and the proudest day of my school career, was the day I was made Head girl. It is a tremendous honour to be standing here today as Head Girl of Wellington College Belfast for 2016-2017.

Wellington has given me countless opportunities and experiences that have enabled me to shape and grow as a person. From leading charitable events, being part of sports and dance teams, taking part in school musical productions and choir, to spending a week in sunny Barcelona with the languages department, these are definitely unforgettable highlights of my time at Wellington. Through these experiences, I have created friendships and learnt a variety of transferable skills and qualities.

I would like to address the year eights, sitting at the back of the hall. In just six years' time, two of you will be standing here, proudly representing the college as Head boy and girl. It may seem like a long way away, but believe me, your time as a Wellington pupil will fly by. Therefore, I advise you all to make the most of your time here, and take every opportunity that may come your way. Get involved with all aspects of school life and take advantage of the excellent variety of extra-curricular activities offered. There is sure to be one to cater to the interests of every pupil.

As I reflect upon my time as a pupil of Wellington College, I am aware that it is not only the pupils that have grown, but the school itself has changed in many ways over our time here. We have introduced an effective student council, which has a great impact on Wellington as it creates new ideas and makes positive changes. Moreover, we now have the successful house system that allows pupils to achieve house points through their individual and group successes, as well as inter house competitions.

I believe that at Wellington College, we have a strong, positive ethos, to engage, educate and empower. Fortunately, I have been extremely privileged to have formed strong student-teacher relationships and at A-level, I am very fortunate to be studying subjects that I am passionate about.

Therefore, I would like to thank Mrs Johnston and Mrs Loughran, for making biology thoroughly enjoyable and for their continuous encouragement and support throughout AS-level.

I would also like to thank Mrs Latimer and the Home Economics department for all they have done for me and for helping Home Economics to become one of my most favourite subjects.

I would also like to thank the incredible languages department, for helping me to discover my love for learning modern languages.

Next year, I hope to attend University, to study children's nursing. I believe that Wellington has prepared me and have taught me necessary skills and caring qualities to go out into the wider world of work.

I would like to leave you today, with one of my favourite quotations of all time by Roald Dahl,

“If you are interested in something, no matter what it is, go at it at full speed ahead. Embrace it with both arms, hug it, love it and above all become passionate about it. Lukewarm is no good.”

Thank You.