

Guest of Honor Dr. Ann Hui  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Yeung Po Kwan JP  
School Directors  
Principal  
Vice Principals  
Parent Representatives  
Teachers and Fellow Graduates

Good Afternoon, I am Gordon Choi from Form 6 Jacaranda.

It is both an honor and a pleasure to be given the opportunity to stand here and speak to you for what is most likely my last time on the CSS stage. I still remember sitting down there being amongst one of the students watching my sister graduate saying to myself, “what will it feel like standing on the stage when I graduate?” At that time graduating seems so far away and I had no idea I would have stood on the stage so many times in the years to come. But here I am.

I’d like to use this chance to share some of my fondest memories in CSS, but also to reflect on my six years here.

Together we’ve been through a lot in this journey and the form one camp was really the beginning of everything. On the first day at the camp we had to walk miles in the hot April sun to the campsite, and when we arrived numerous challenging activities were waiting for us. By night these activities drained our energy and we were ready to give up. The coach at the campsite noticed our exhaustion and it came to the point that the entire form was ‘welcome to choose’ whether to stay or leave, and in the end, we all chose to stay.

And really, that was what our time was like in CSS. There were moments that we felt overwhelmed by the workload, pressured by the deadlines, and as we wait for our results we went on a mental roller coaster ride. Our anxieties for the future often brought us to the point of giving up, and giving up is REALLY easy. But then we took a step back, collected ourselves, remember what is important to us and then we keep on going. We kept fighting for a better future for ourselves, but also for those who care about us, our families and teachers. And finally, after all our hardships, we have come to the end of our journey at CSS. Fellow graduates, I am proud to say it for all of us, that we

have finished our secondary education. We are proud to say at this moment, that we do not regret a single moment in how we have reached this milestone in our lives.

But at this moment I cannot stop but ask myself, 'what if we could do it again? What would change and how would we be different?'

~What if we did not prepare TOO MUCH for the form 3 math summative assessment?

~What if one of our talented art students did not put up his art piece on Court B?

~What if we actually learnt our lesson and did not complete our assignments until the very last moment?

The course of our fates might change but one thing I'm sure of. We will not be enjoying the tons of good fun and shared memories we have now collected, that strengthen the bonds of our friendships over the years.

Today as we reminisce the good times at CSS, we will also bear in mind all the lessons we have learnt. Some lessons might be unpleasant or even painful to recall but these are the lessons that challenged us, that shaped us to become better and all-rounded people.

I will always be grateful for the school's support, particularly the students who have given me the opportunity to lead you as the Chairman of the Student Union. And that experience has taught me that it's not easy to get what you want. Turning ideas into reality is always difficult and it always will be. But I had been constantly motivated by one thing – the fact that we are coming together to create good memories for us to cherish in the future. As I look back on the many accomplishments that we have achieved, I will say the days of hard work are definitely worth it.

I'd like to thank all teachers and CSS staff for helping us run that long IB and DSE marathon. You all have been patient, wise and tolerant. I must thank the fellow graduates as well because without the laughs and tears you guys have brought to this community, life would be tough. I treasure the six years spent in CSS, and I believe it is fate that brought us here together. Finally, I think we must all thank our families who had been the beacon of light in our lives. Without my family's advice and guidance I would not have achieved what I have today. Give your family a hug or call those who

cannot come today at the end of this ceremony, your greeting means the world to them.

We are leaving CSS today. But the CSS we left behind is a different one from what we inherited from the hands of the previous cohorts. We have made this school a better place and we will take away memories that we treasure for the rest of our lives.

Thank you.

Side note:

What inspired me to write this speech is the memories along the years and without the people, the place and the opportunities I would not have collected so many now. Often at these occasions we cheer and celebrate for all that we have been through and we forget those who are by our sides since the very beginning, our families.

My family have always been supportive and we have strong ties together. Family unity became more important to us since my sister, Karen Choi, who is also an alumna of CSS, left home and lived in her the University dormitory. We now treasure our time together and I hoped that, through this occasion, I could let them know how much they mean to me.

My personal experience plus the precious ties with my family are the two things that I kept in mind while I wrote the speech and I hope I have delivered them clearly and strongly.