

Good evening, parents, staff, pupils and guests.

I would like to begin by thanking our guest speaker Dame Stella Rimmington for taking the time to join us this evening.

I am very fortunate and proud to have the opportunity to be a part of this celebration of the fantastic achievements made by our pupils last year. Although the best award for hard work is our own personal sense of accomplishment, it is always hugely encouraging to have those successes publicly celebrated.

I joined Sacred Heart School four years ago but from the very first day I could not help but be impressed by the way in which pupils and staff alike treated each other; by their mutual respect, enthusiasm and understanding. These attitudes certainly made me feel both valued and an important part of our school family. All the teachers ensure that we achieve the best of which we are capable. The one-to-one teaching opportunities that come with smaller class sizes at Sacred Heart help every pupil succeed in a way that is unique to them, and the commitment of the staff is second to none.

When I first joined I had no self-confidence. I don't think I ever dreamed that I would be standing here, speaking to you as Head Girl, and I was so painfully shy that I don't think I would have wanted to. I owe all of this to Sacred Heart.

In our school you are given so many fantastic opportunities, and you are encouraged to seize them, even if it pushes you completely out of your comfort zone. All of the awards presented today started as someone simply taking part, then practising and working hard in order to succeed.

However, it is impossible to mention all of the school's achievements in the space of one evening. There are always those personal goals that are just as important as the GCSE results you receive at the end of your time here. Whether it is performing in a play, competing in House events or surviving Duke of Edinburgh, it is important to be reminded of these goals and to be proud of them.

Pupils also have the opportunity to go on exciting trips, both locally and internationally, to places like Northern France, Italy and, later this year, Ardeche.

Sacred Heart makes going to school an experience worth holding on to. It is evident today that this school helps you develop academically, but it also succeeds in creating well-rounded, caring, and passionate young people. I believe this is a real testament to the dedication of our teachers and staff, as well as the commitment and hard work of all the students.

Over the past three years I have had far more fun than I thought I could whilst at school, I have learned and experienced so many more things that I do not think could have occurred in another environment and have made friends whom I will remember forever.

I wish all the students of Sacred Heart School, both past and present the very best wishes. Thank you all, once again for joining us tonight. I hope that you have enjoyed the evening.

Aurelia Eburne