

Good evening
Professor Freddy Boey;
Chairman of the SAJC Board of Governors, Mr Tan Soo Kiang;
Members of the Board of Governors;
Mrs Lee Bee Yann, Principal, SAJC;
Chairman of SAJC Parent Support Group, Mrs Chan May Ping;
Principals, Distinguished guests, Parents, teachers and fellow Saints.

I remember attending the past two College days and hearing the Valedictorians speak, and it never crossed my mind then that I would be standing here and delivering a speech of my own today. For that, I am truly honoured and thankful to have been chosen Valedictorian of the 2014 cohort. I share this award with every individual that has made an impact in my life here in St. Andrew's.

The theme for College day this year is 'One Family Unbroken', and I am sure that every single Saint is familiar with this phrase, which is from the College hymn. Whenever we sing the hymn as a College, we sing with arms around one another, and these three words are always sung the loudest. That is what I love about the College – that there is such a prominent and ever-present family spirit.

Whether it was singing the hymn as a College during assemblies, after watching performances or at 'A' division matches, I always felt the College spirit. My most memorable experience of this was at the rugby finals last year. We may not have won but what happened after the game amazed me. I believe many of you have heard about this or may even have been there but bear with me...

ALL supporters came down from the stands. They surrounded us with their warmth and support, and together, we ALL sang the College hymn and shared a prayer together. I am not an emotional person, but that day I was moved to tears. It is precious moments such as that which I will remember for the rest of my life.

My family consists of my parents, three brothers, a little sister and myself - a grand total of 7 of us. They have been there for me in one

way or another, and I thank God that He has placed each and every one of them in my life. Family is something I treasure a lot, and I am glad and grateful that in St Andrew's I have found a bigger family that has also always been there for me.

I have been in this St Andrew's family for 12 years now, and looking back, I have enjoyed every single second of it. From the tiny age of 7, St Andrew's has been a huge part of my life. It is still pretty surreal to me that my schooling days in St Andrew's are over, and that this is my first College day as an alumnus. However, I do know that it is not the end of my relationship with St Andrew's. I know that I am still very much a part of this big and closely knit family.

“One Family Unbroken.” The word ‘family’ comes from the Latin word ‘*familia*’, meaning ‘household servants’, which comes from another Latin term *famulus*, or ‘servant’. Although the meaning eventually changed to the one we know today, I believe that there is a need for individuals to serve in one way or another to ensure that the family is able to function.

This clearly, by the way, fit in with the theme for College Day last year – “to serve the coming days”. I am truly thankful that during my time here, as a member of the Saints Family I was able to achieve this. And I could not have done so without so much support and faith from so many Family members.

I am deeply thankful for the schoolmates I had around me throughout my time in SA. Thank you all for serving as pillars of strength and comfort during our time together. I would love to recount all the fun and exciting adventures we have had together, but then this speech would go on forever. Whether it was the countless hours of studying (or at least trying to) with 13S13 and other friends, or the blood, sweat and tears shed on the field with my teammates, I hope that our friendships will last a lifetime and we do not forget the exceptional experiences we have shared together. Thank you ALL for being my brothers and sisters.

For all who are receiving prizes today, congratulations on your stellar results. Your hard work has paid off and I am really happy for each and every one of you. But the College family is not only made up of the students, it includes many groups of people who have supported us in so many ways to look after the welfare of all of us. They have made the difference that has allowed us to be here today to celebrate our achievements

Foremost among these, we have our teachers. Like our parents, they put in hard work and showered us with care and love. At times we may have been annoyed at their scolding and nagging, but we knew - we know - that they have our best interests at heart. Despite their busy schedules, the teachers were always approachable and were willing to provide us with innumerable consultations to clear up our doubts and offer us advice that allowed us to improve. They never gave up hope on us no matter how bad our grades were, and they guided us to the very end of our journey here. I am eternally grateful that I had such wonderful and inspiring teachers in my 2 years here.

There was the friendly non-teaching staff, always saying “hi” with a huge smile who were dedicated to ensuring that we had the best environment to learn.

Then there are our school leaders – our Principal Mrs Lee and Deputy Principals, Ms Neo, Mr Pang and Mr Chan. They have been there for us in countless ways that many of us did not even know about. Quietly, behind the scenes, they have ensured we have not lacked for the resources and programmes that have helped nurture us and allowed us to grow.

Finally, we have the Board of Governors and the alumni, who have always been there for us. Their unwavering support for the College has contributed to the continued strengthening of this Family.

Thank you ALL!

I am sure my fellow Saints that you would agree with me on how much these people have helped us achieve our success. Shall we put our hands together in appreciation for of them?

My personal journey in SA is definitely not the same as my peers' but I am sure that each and every one of them, that each and every one of you will also have wonderful memories unique to your own experience. The College has given us so much. It has been a place to play, a place to study. Here we have built close relationships. Here we have stood by one another in good times and bad. Here it is our Home.

We may be diverse in the things we do, but we all bleed the common blue and white of the Saints family.

To the JC1s, I hope you have adjusted well in this Family! Make good friends. Create fond memories! But please remember to study hard and do well for your promos at the same time.

And, for the JC2s, this is a really big year for you. Work hard for what you want, and you shall reap what you sow. Even if the going gets tough, or your results now are not ideal, do not worry. Have faith that everything will turn out fine in the end. Treasure this last four to five months here in SA. Help one another. Know that you have teachers and others who will help you. But remember to have fun as well.

Life is like a roller coaster, full of ups and downs. But it is up to you if you want to scream in fear, or simply just enjoy the ride.

To the class of 2014, as the saying goes 'Once a Saint, always a Saint'! Do not forget your time spent here and the friendships made. As we go forth into the world to pursue our different passions and paths, let us always remember where we came from. Life will throw at us many challenges, but always remain steadfast in our values and have a positive attitude no matter what the situation may be. Let us keep the flame burning brightly, wherever we go.

Once again, on behalf of the 2014 cohort, thank you, SAJC, for taking us on such a joyous and unforgettable journey. God Bless Us All!

Up and On!