

Good morning.

We are all here today to wave goodbye to this academic year and to celebrate the success of a few outstanding students. However, at some time throughout this year, every single person in this room has experienced success. Success is happening all around us, every minute of every day, here at School and outside students and adults are experiencing success. I would love to recognise all these individuals today, but unfortunately, for obvious reasons, that would be impossible.

The word Success can be used in a number of different circumstances but all uses have one thing in common, to be successful you need to reach your goals. Success can therefore be described as the achievement of something that you have been trying to do. To be successful, does not always mean that you have to win or be given an award.

We are all different, with different interests and desires, therefore success for each of us is also very different.

- This year you may have improved your skills in hockey, handball, football or rugby.
- It could be that you managed to stand up in front of your class to do a presentation.
- You might have been courageous enough to sing or act in the School musical.
- You may have got a resolution passed in the MUN.
- It could be that you have improved your grades in a subject that you were finding difficult.
- Perhaps, you did well in the Maths Olympics.
- You may even have been selected to be a perfect.

All different forms of success – however, the process of becoming successful always stays the same

1. You need to want to do it. Nobody else can want it for you, not your parents, not your teachers, you have to want to do it yourself. If you're not interested, or if you don't enjoy what you are doing, then it is nearly impossible to master the skills required for success.

2. You need to work hard. Unless you are prepared to put in the work you cannot succeed. Whether that work means going to sports practice regularly, or spending hours learning the words of a song for the School Musical, or researching your chosen country for an MUN conference, or studying for a test; to be successful you have to put in the hours.
3. Set small, attainable, goals. People who are successful have a dream. They know what they want and they don't stop until they have achieved it. But, it's impossible to go from nothing to an Olympic athlete or starring in a Broadway show. The overarching goal needs to be broken down into smaller steps. Each with its own mini measure of success. Then step by step, overtime you gain the skills that take you to mastery.

This is the process of education. You would not be expected to sit the IB Diploma exams in the Junior School. Schools prepare you overtime, with attainable goals that you can reach at each stage, culminating in the IB Diploma exams. Your success on these exams have as much to do with the small goals attained in the Junior School as the larger goals reached in Y6 liceo. Education can therefore be seen as a process of small improvement over time.

4. Resilience - there will be times where it all seems too much. You will face some level of failure along the way – this is how we learn and improve. People may put you down, making you feel like success is impossible. It is normal to feel like this. Resilience is your ability to continue in the face of adversity. After facing setbacks, it's your ability to carry on. This is perhaps the greatest difference between those that succeed and those that don't.

One of the greatest success stories of the 20th century - Pele - once said:

“Success is no accident, it is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing.”

Thank you very much and I wish you all a successful summer holiday.