

Matura Speech

Dear graduates, friends, family and colleagues

We are gathered here today to celebrate your accomplishment, your work and dedication this past year- this would have not been possible without the support and help of your parents - whom I now take this opportunity to thank...your teachers and most importantly each other.

Certainly, the word Matura -which truly means "ripe" or formed is a much better descriptor than High School diploma or A levels. It indicates the young adult is ready for the world and has acquired the necessary understanding to now contribute to society.

But what does acquiring an education for the 21 Century really mean?

Is it enough to have learned calculus? will you ever use all those equations again? is it enough to have learned what the GDP of many countries is? to have read Shakespeare and Molière? does this truly mean you are now mature?

In today's complex super connected global world what are the ideas that will bring about what society really needs? not ... facts and figures in physics or geography even though this has helped you to look at the world more keenly , or reading Shakespeare in the original , albeit this does allow you to communicate in the world's lingua franca ,perhaps flexibility, the ability to reinvent yourself over and over and adapt faster ,or the strength that comes with reaching for a dream and grasping it, of experiencing the power of one's own resilience.

But above all it is posing ourselves questions that makes a difference - what are we aiming at? what is the family of man trying to achieve? And where do I fit in it? It is being part of the star dust and wondering at the sky at the same time, seeing your fellow man as part of your family.

I am certain all of you have learned this!

Bravo!

Maluvi Martin
english teacher