

## 6<sup>th</sup> Year graduation Speech

Speaker 1

(6B)

Callum

*(Make sure to look up at people when reading this.)*

Dear Family, friends, Ms. O'Rourke, teachers and other staff members,

We have finally come to the end of our time in Holy Family School for the Deaf and what a journey it has been.

There is so much we could talk about, so many wonderful memories and plenty to be proud of....

our achievements through the years,

our learning in our subjects

how good we are at annoying teachers in different ways

how we could make up new excuses for not doing homework

the friendships we have made and will continue in our lives

and finally the young, responsible and confident adults we have become.

There is so much we could talk about, but there is one part of our journey that will stay with us. As we move on to the next steps in our lives, we leave knowing that we are the last year group that was **amalgamated/joined together** to become Holy family school for the Deaf.

We take this knowledge with us knowing we were part of a wonderful history in St Mary's and St Joseph's schools and also a part of the school's future as Holy Family School for the Deaf. We can leave being proud of how we have helped to create a future in the building and leading of our school community.

Siocha Quinn 6C

In our years at Holy Family School, we have learned much thanks to the help of teachers and all of the other staff. But it was not just the subjects we enjoyed. It was the friendships we made, the skills we developed, the trips we went on and all the activities.

We learned much around our subjects. We learned how to be responsible young adults, about the importance of communication, how to build positive relationships and how to respect ourselves and the people around us. We learned about looking after our physical and mental wellbeing.

These have been all very important skills we have learned and they are the lessons we will take with us on the next step in our lives.

Gabrielle and ALEX (6D)

We will be sad to leave Holy Family School. We will be sad not to see our same friends every day and share our news and talk about our weekends. We are also sad that we cannot greet our friends the way we could before the Corona virus.

We have our students here today who left last year and we cannot say hello with a handshake or hug. But we are really happy they came back so we could celebrate this day together and share the special memory of graduation. Thank you to all the 6<sup>th</sup> years from last for joining us today.

Jade and Shauna (6A)

Over the last year, we have all had to deal with the impact of the Corona Virus. This brought with it a lot of challenges. It meant sometimes feeling isolated, adapting to online classes, not seeing our friends, missing events and not being able to travel. There were a lot of negative impacts.

But now, because all of our hard work and effort in keeping each other safe, we can hopefully see an end in sight. This end makes us stronger people in many ways.

We are stronger because we know that even in the most difficult time of our living history, we can depend on and look after each other, and do whatever it takes to see it through. We are stronger because we know that as individuals, we can work harder than on our own than we ever had to before.

The chapters in our lives at Holy Family School for the Deaf will always be there for us to look back on and gain strength from too. Through all the good and bad times, it was always a place where there was support, respect and guidance to help develop the young adults we were becoming. **(No matter how hard we sometimes made it for the staff!)**

No matter what the road ahead has in store for us, we are young adults that are ready for any challenge that is put in front of us. Sometimes, we may not succeed in our first, second or even third attempt, but that's ok, because we have learned the value of being patient and working hard for something that we really want.

No matter how uncertain things are now in this difficult time, this is a passing moment in our history. As students leaving holy Family

School for the Deaf, our lives are our own to choose what we will do with them. Sometimes the choices will be exciting. Other times, they may be a little frightening, but the frightening choices should not and will never stop us from choosing them if that's the road we wish to take. So, to finish, I will use a quote that a teacher in our school likes to share with us and say to the class of 2021 and 2020 that, "The world is our oyster, we have the opportunity to do and be anything we want. Let's do it all!"

Thank you.