Good evening. My name is Frances Di Carlo and I am College Captain at the Glenorchy Campus. As the doors of GYC slowly close behind us, we take time to reflect on our last two years; the friends we have made, the laughter and the challenges. When we pushed those same doors open and entered for the first time, we were all so apprehensive, but the staff immediately put us at ease and have continued to support us through every stage of our senior secondary education. They have taught us to be lifelong learners, to be aware of our global environment, to access and use current resources and technology and to take responsibility for ourselves and importantly, for others.

The Class of 2016 has studied hard, had so many opportunities to excel and we have been incredibly privileged to be part of GYC. This secure, safe and exciting learning environment, connected to every research avenue necessary with teaching staff who are always accessible and, of course, an awesome canteen, have served us well.

During our time at GYC the doors of welcome, encouragement and belief in us have remained firmly open; there have been no impediments to our opportunity to learn and grow, pursue our passions and achieve.

Once we negotiated the threshold of a new educational home we quickly discovered that inside GYC offered a multitude of amazing doorways for students, with over 100 TCE and VET Courses and a huge number of co-curricular possibilities.

GYC continues to excel in these areas, with students achieving top results and awards locally and nationally and taking up exciting university and vocational pathways. Standards are set very high for us and we are meet them even if it is passing just one pre-tertiary course when just a couple of years ago we didn’t think we had a chance!

So, as we walk out the door of GYC and into the world outside, we’ll see a maze of paths and avenues to navigate to find our future. Some of us may run through the door way without a thought of looking back. Others may be stuck for a while in a revolving door not too sure when to make their move, and some of us may be pushing the door slightly ajar just enough
to be able to look out and see the world outside but feeling tentative about walking through. Tonight we are probably experiencing a mixture of all of these.

My wish for all of us is that our experience of GYC has given us the confidence and courage to push the doors wide open and step forward into a future of promise.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, ‘Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?’ Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us, it’s in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

As sad as it may be to finish our time at GYC, we do so as young adults, well educated, capable and enthusiastic. GYC has taught us to open every door and explore the possibilities. Our Catholic Education has encouraged us not to be afraid, not to leave doors unopened, instead push them apart.

“Knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Thank you.

DOMINIC NGUYEN

GYC is a community of faith that reaches out to our world.

Good evening everyone. My name is Dominic Nguyen and I am one of the College Captains at Glenorchy Campus.

Our College has a wonderful tradition. It is based on the amazing dreams and faith of the founding orders of the Sisters of Charity, the Dominican Sisters, the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph. They continue to value education as a way to work towards the end of poverty, suffering, ignorance and oppression. This is done by living and promoting the Gospel values of respect, forgiveness, compassion, inclusion, respect for our Earth, and a strong sense of social justice.

GYC opened its doors to me. As an asylum seeker I would not have been able to continue my education without its generosity. I am a product of their vision, and I want to open doors for others.
At GYC our education is more than academic. We are given many opportunities to express our personal faith and develop spiritually. These opportunities include being invited to take part in House, Campus and College liturgies, Focus Days, daily prayer in Tutor groups before beginning lessons, and our Religion classes. I have loved studying and growing in faith at this Catholic College, something totally impossible for me in Viet Nam.

GYC is an outward looking, inclusive community that encourages generosity of spirit and service to others. It reaches out to all people. Tutor groups participate in a community outreach activity during the year. Our Houses offer so many opportunities to assist others.

Each year we participate in Walk for Hope. This whole College event helps teach us our global responsibilities to promote a sustainable lifestyle for all. Money raised assists Caritas support those who suffer as a result of natural disaster, war, acts of terror or poverty.

College Colours Day is a fun day when we remember our founding orders and celebrate all that is good about our College community. We dress in House colours, and the Campuses gather together for activities, ‘GYC’s Got Talent’ and a celebratory barbecue. I love the ‘school spirit’ and good friendships that are part of life at GYC.

GYC strives to prepare us for a life of helping others.

So let’s follow Pope Francis’ advice to choose courage and dream great things. I am sure he would support the message of Edward Everett Hale. I commend it to you all:

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

ALICE SANDRIC

“Stop wasting your time looking for the key to happiness… the door is open and unlocked... just walk through it.”

My name is Alice Sandric, and I am one of the College Captains for 2016.

Throughout our lives we leave memories in the hearts of everyone we meet. What I learnt during my time at Guilford Young College is that the more opportunities we respond to, the more memories we gift to others and ourselves. Memories filled with joy sustain our happiness and memories of challenge help strengthen our character. It is when we use courage to achieve a desired goal that the unimaginable happens.

For example, this year our GYC girls had the opportunity to play AFL football for the very first time; we expressed our musical talents in the College’s musical, Footloose; we brought home the SSATIS netball trophy for the first time in four years; were back-to-back winners of the College girls’ water polo competition and the SATIS boys’ soccer shield; we represented the College at the State and national finals of Robotics; led the inaugural Oral History project, and the list goes on.

2016 Graduands now look back on the memories we have created here at Guilford Young College with gratitude and at the same time we understand that the world now calls us to look forward and to maintain our drive to achieve our goals.
This year when I visited Krakow, Poland, to be in a crowd of two million people, I heard Pope Francis say to youth of the world, “The time we are living in does not call for young couch potatoes but for young people with shoes – or better – boots laced.”

We must allow ourselves to be the best versions of ourselves and go forth with strength. Mother Teresa, now a saint, holds a powerful story of courage. After her father died when she was eight years old, her mother raised her as a Catholic. She was inspired by the missionaries and then when she was 18 years old, the age many of us are here tonight, she left her family to join the Sisters, and serve as a missionary herself and become a teacher. Throughout her life she passionately devoted herself to serving the poor whole heartedly.

So like her, lets ‘lace our boots’, as Pope Francis says, and make a difference in our world. Let’s be true to what we have learned and the opportunities we have had throughout our time at GYC and strive to be the best person we can be.

DANIEL PRICHARD

To quote Pope Francis, “God’s love is unbounded: it has no limits.”

Good evening, my name is Daniel Prichard, and I have been a College Captain on the Hobart Campus this year.

Guilford Young College is a community based on love. This love is strengthened by a message of welcome and acceptance, promoted not through words, but the generosity demonstrated by all members of our family of faith.

Tonight, on behalf of the graduating class of 2016, we thank this community, for nurturing our personal aspirations and hidden skills into dreams and talents, filling us with confidence and an understanding that our place in the world matters. In this way, our time spent at GYC has opened countless doors for us, enabling us to flourish in ways we could have never imagined.

As our year has begun drawing to a close, one valuable discovery we have made is that these doors of opportunity don’t open themselves. At the very heart of our community are people – too many to mention – who bring hope and peace into our lives, surrounding us with loving support. To our teachers, loving parents, and generous supporters of our College, the class of 2016 says thank you.

As one community of faith, we thank the College Board and Governing Council for putting our futures first. Archbishop Porteous, priests and religious of the Archdiocese of Hobart, who motivate us to strive to be the best examples of humility and agents of joy that we can be, we thank you. To our families, beautiful parents and carers, who made sure our gumboots were on for rainy days and our finger paintings were cherished and our assignment deadlines were met, we say thank you. Your love has been our strength, and through your example, we have learnt to love others. And to our army of supporters during our senior secondary journey – the staff of Guilford Young College – the doors you have opened for us, through your undying support of our own authenticity, are deeply appreciated. Your legacy will stay with us always, as we grow to embrace all it is to flourish as a human being.
I speak now to my peers, the Graduating Class of 2016. I look at you now, and I feel a mix of emotions, but none more than gratitude. My thanks go to you, for bringing your love and compassion to develop the sheer beauty that is the diversity of our GYC family. The world is waiting for us, and I urge you to use your selflessness and call to justice to make your lives extraordinary, and as unforgettable as our legacy of love. To quote Dr Seuss: “You’re off to great places, today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!”

Our community of love is filled with gratitude for countless peacemakers, but none more than our own cheerleader, mascot, and spiritual guardian, Mrs Bobby Court. An extraordinary example of humility and whole-hearted servant leadership, to you, Guilford Young College owes the world, and with you we send every hope of success and good wishes for all the future will bring. We thank you for teaching us that ultimately, God loves each of us with his whole heart, regardless of who we are, and what we believe. And I am proud to say that regardless of these things, GYC says “welcome: to you, with open doors, and an open heart.

Derwent Entertainment Centre
Tuesday 8 November 2016

(photos: Alistair Bett)