

## **SPEECH BY SJIS PRINCIPAL FOR THE 5<sup>th</sup> ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY – 2017**

Good afternoon honoured guests, parents, teachers and students.

Mr.Ng Kim Huat, Country Director- Malaysia and Brunei, Cambridge International Examinations, our Guest-of-Honour for today's Awards Ceremony.

Y.M. Tunku Dato Seri Iskandar Bin Tunku Abdullah, advisor to St. John's International School Board of Governors (BOG),

Mr. Rusland Abu Samah, our respected Chairman of SJIS Board of Governors,

En. Mohd Shoib Bin Ibrahim, Assist Director, Department of Private Education, MOE

En. Abdul Aziz Bin Md.Hussin, Sector Head, Private Education Division, KL Department of Education

Honourable members of SJIS BOGs, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be speaking to all of you this afternoon on our 5<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony. This afternoon is indeed special to me as it was on this very day 6 years ago that I joined the ranks of my bosses present today to establish St. John's International School in 2010, hence it's a very special day for me indeed.

The ceremony today will be a very meaningful day to all the recipients of the Academic Awards and this memory I believe will be cherished by each of you for many years to come. This ceremony is held to pay tribute to your diligent, consistent hard work and effort that you had given to your studies in 2016. I wish to congratulate each and every one of the recipients for having achieved these high academic standards set by the school. Having received this award today, I wish to remind you that you will soon be facing similar challenges this year and beyond. Hence, I hope you would also continue your pursuit for academic excellence in all your future endeavours.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In today's Awards Ceremony, our school has managed to maintain the 100% passes for A Levels, IGCSE and also the CIE Check Point Examinations in 2016. For the A Levels, 20 of our candidates had scored A Star and A Grades. For the CIE IGCSE we had 57 candidates securing both A Star and A grades whilst the CIE Check point examinations we had average scores of 5.4/6 for Maths, 3.5/6 for English and 5/6 for science respectively. Indeed, this is a marked improvement from the 2015 CIE Examinations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our aim at SJIS is to identify and enhance the potential of each student – we seek to promote the all-round character of students in their moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic areas. Hence the curricula and programmes at SJIS are all planned to develop student's talents and potentials.

I wish to stress here that above all, permeating from the whole fabric of the school ethos is the spirit of character building. Mahatma Gandhi, once said that knowledge and education can sometimes make people arrogant, BUT with a good attitude and character the true spirit of education can be seen to flow from the actions of individuals.

It is for this very reason that in SJIS we emphasise strongly in the discipline of our students. Through the practice of merit-points, student's counselling and our existing student's handbook, it is our hope and desire that all our students will be equipped with good values, ethics and character.

Ladies & G/men,

I wish to mention that there are 3 strong pillars/foundation that we have laid out in our school today. The first is that; every student is here in SJIS to enjoy their school life, as once this opportunity is lost when they leave the school, they will not get another chance to do so. Hence, we set the environment for students to do just that not only in class during their instructional time, but also to open their minds once they are outside their class by involving themselves in sports, clubs and healthy activities that broaden their knowledge and maturity in thinking. In this area, our teachers play an important role in creating the ambience where students would enjoy to come to school because they love and enjoy what they are doing in school. Once this is achieved, we would not have to deal with truancy and poor discipline amongst our students.

The second is what I mentioned a few minutes ago is to build our students' ethics, attitude and character. It is the hope of any parent today that their children are valued for their high ethical behaviour and character in comparison to having a degrading morale even if they are successful in their career.

The third and most important aspect that we stress at SJIS is the importance of language, especially the English Language. It is for this reason, that at our school we have developed various embedded programmes such as the Direct English, Academic English, Lingua Franca, Professional Writing and IELTS, all with the objective of improving the English competency of our students. There are very few International schools today which deliver such vast programmes or offer extra classes like we do in SJIS, and even if there are any, there is always an extra cost to pay.

It is the view of some educators today that the success of an individual depends on the number of languages one is able to speak. Mastering the English Language and other language will enable students in future to network and understand cultures which will be seen as a great asset for the future.