



北京耀中國際學校

YEW CHUNG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BEIJING

Mr. Mark Adams,
Acting Western Co Principal

Congratulations Y13 students on your graduation. You have worked very hard to reach this point on your educational journey. 2020 will be a year that everyone in the World will remember for your whole lifetime and beyond. 2020, the year in which no IB exams were taken across the world. These exams have been your focus for the last two years and maybe longer. These were a significant part of your education, the key to unlocking the next step, usually College or University.

But for you, because of COVID the last 5 months have been very different. No in-school face to face teaching ...and no exams. As we have heard from Mr. Mellen with regard to your journey to University, the destination you chose remains unchanged but the key, your exam results, has changed.

In 2020 we talk about 21st Century skills. We have talked about e-learning for several years ... and now, because of COVID, we have all had to use it extensively and at times exclusively. Indeed, Cambridge University in England have said they will do all their lectures next year online. So, you are already upskilled in this 21st century skill.

I have spent a large amount of time in Beijing during the last two years and this school is very special to me. I know it is a very special place for you too. Whether you have been here for 2 years or since Kindergarten you have benefitted from what makes YCIS Beijing a unique school. Thank you for all that you have contributed to our school during your time with us. Thank you to all your parents ...who have helped you ...to get to this point on your journey, and have also brought much to our school community during their partnership with us over many years.

Academic excellence is very important, and we want you to achieve as highly as you can in your studies here at school. However, we believe education is more than academic excellence. In our Mission, Principles and Practices we talk about character formation, relationships, 21st century skills, World cultures, and nurturing talents and gifts. We have wanted to educate the whole student not just the academic part of you.

We have watched you develop your skills and talents, working cooperatively and collaboratively with your peers, solving problems, being creative and innovative, learning from your mistakes, and using critical thinking as you prepare not just for university or college; but also for work, and for life. Life as a global citizen, who is able to speak Chinese and English and for some of you Korean and other languages too.

This is a significant step on your life journey, a day you will always remember... in a year we will always remember. Your learning journey will continue throughout your life. For many of you the next step is university or college, but I hope you don't see that as your last step. I am 57 years old and I am still learning every day, I enjoy learning and want that to continue for my whole life. Celebrate today, you have worked hard to get to this point. Enjoy the journey. Thank you for letting this school be part of that journey in your lives, you will always be part of our school community and we hope you will keep in touch with us.

Please remember to thank your teachers, to thank your parents and to thank your peers. They have all helped you on this section of your journey, but also look in the mirror and congratulate yourself.

Well done!