

# GRADUATION

"Climb the mountain so you can see the world, not so the world can see you."

David McCullough jr.

Graduating Year 2022-2023





# GRADUATION 2023

## SUBJECT PRIZES

### HUMANITIES

*Dr Eric Boston*  
*Head of Humanities*

Chinese - Long Chin Chiu (Bosco)  
Russian - Vyaleta Udavenia  
French - Cecile Hoai Isis Schorsch  
Psychology - Khanh An Le (Alix)  
Sociology - Maria Fernanda Zavala Lemus (Fernanda)

### SCIENCES

*Neelam Debata*  
*Head of Science*

Biology - Kyi Sin Thu  
Chemistry - Nizea Halili (Niz)  
Physics - Shwe Toe Aung (Edward)

### BUSINESS, ACCOUNTANCY AND COMMERCE

*Paul Ibram*  
*Head of Business, Accountancy & Commerce*

Accounts - Nazarii Kostiuik (Nazar)  
Business - Keisi Ahmetaj  
Economics - Khanh An Le (Alix)

### VISUAL ARTS

*Jo Whitehouse*  
*Head of Visual Arts*

Photography - Long Hin Chiu (Bosco)  
Fine Art - Polina Parshyna

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

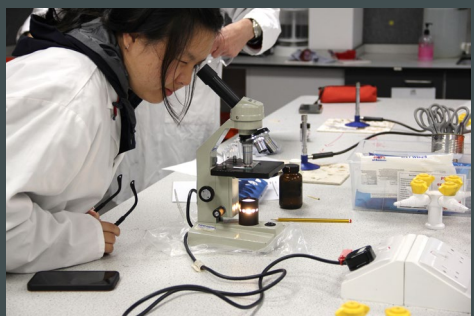
*Rob Derbyshire*  
*Head of ESL*

May Me Khang Zin Thant (May Me)  
Kyi Sin Thu

### MATHS

*Qadeer Afzal*  
*Acting Head of Mathematics/Assistant Principal Academic*

Kyi Sin Thu  
Shwe Toe Aung (Edward)





**EXTENDED PROJECT AWARD**

*Dominic Tomalin*

*Principal*

**Silver Awards**

Vanessa Tostado Lopez

Yuen Jong Jocelyn Tsang (Jocelyn)

Nina Martinakova

**Gold Awards**

Rachel Faine

Emir Rizq Hafiz Bin Khadrishah

Gisela Annabel Windoe

**HOUSE AWARDS**

**Tiger House**

*Sarah Morgan*

*House Director*

Su Myat Thant Zin (Su)

**Lion House**

*Godfrey Matereure*

*House Director*

Assel Adilbekkyzy

**Leopard House**

*Ruby Bell-Williamson*

*House Director*

Natalia Miksova

**Jaguar House**

*Janet Johnson*

*House Director*

Aye Mon Mon Aung (Mon)

**Panther House**

*Hayley Pienaar*

*House Director*

Meriel Clare Rodgers

## BOARDING

*James Todd*  
*Head of Boarding*

## BOARDING CERTIFICATES

Chyanoot Maneenual (Annie)  
Nizea Halili (Niz)  
Adham Abdallah Moustafa Fayez A Radwan  
Abubakr Komiljonov  
Rantong Huang (Rain)  
Long Hin Chiu (Bosco)  
Kyi Sin Thu  
Mina Belevic  
Cecile Hoai Isis Schorsch

## BOARDING CUP

Kayra Kolbasi

## SPORTS

*Douglas Edwards*  
*Activities Manager*

## SPORTS CUP

Kseniia Surova  
Malika Rzagaziyeva

## INTERNATIONAL DAY AWARDS

*Hayley Pienaar*  
*House Director*

## STUDENT COUNCIL

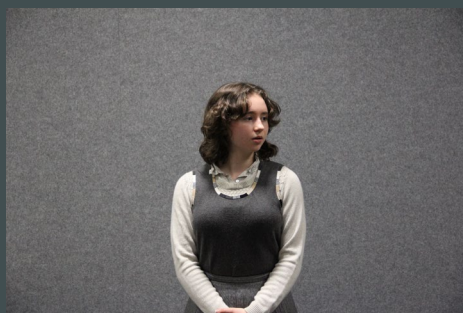
*Godfrey Matereure*  
*House Director*

## VALEDICTORIAN

*Meriel Clare Rodgers*

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Dominic Tomalin*  
*Principal*









## TIGER HOUSE WINS THE HOUSE CUP





# POETRY READING

**Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven**  
**W.B. Yeats 1865 -1939**

Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

*Read by Weiyuan Cheng (Bill)*











# VALEDICTORY SPEECH – MERIEL RODGERS



Three years ago, I came to this school as a young, fresh-faced student in the middle of GCSEs. Just imagine, for a moment, a small girl with long brown hair, carrying a large backpack, walking into the hub for the first time. I stood where you are sitting now, and I looked at everything going on. I had no idea of what to expect. I was only one of two British students here, and I had never been to an international school before. I was about to start Year 11, and this was a new environment for me.

What I found here was nothing short of incredible. The welcoming ethos of the college really shone through and made those first few months manageable. It is this ethos that would go on to inspire me in everything that I did here, both with academic achievements and pastoral ones.

In 1943 American psychologist Abraham Maslow constructed what would become one of his most well-known theories, the Hierarchy of Needs, a list of things a human must achieve in order to become the best version of themselves. Down at the bottom sit things like safety, love, and belonging, but right at the top sits Self Actualisation, the achievement of becoming the best version of ourselves.

Each of us is on our own path to Self-Actualisation, and we are thankful for the teachers, administrators, and family who have shown us glimpses of who we can become. Unexpected moments of both uncertainty and joy filled the past three years. As we look back at the late-night studying, the endless papers, and the assigned reading, we should be proud of what we have accomplished.

During my time at CATS, I have realized that success is not just my grade, my social status,

or even my potential to get a job in my career of choice. I am more confident today, not because I hold a certificate in my hands, but because of the friendships I have formed and the obstacles I have overcome.

We have invested in our future, and now our future is suddenly not far off but within our reach.

As we look back on our time here, we reflect on the many wonderful opportunities that were presented to us, and the many amazing and eclectic people we have met as a result.

We will be forever grateful to the staff for fostering our interest in learning, and for helping us grow into assertive and open-minded individuals.

I have learned the people who influence the world are those who prioritize kindness and strength of character. People like our House Directors, Hayley, Ruby, Godfrey, Sarah, and Janet for their continued support of us. They have spearheaded initiatives like the Wellbeing walk, which got us out of the building for a much-needed break and fresh air during exam season, as well as keeping us up to date with House events, and pushing us to achieve our best. In particular we want to mention how Godfrey's tireless patience really helped us grasp concepts which were otherwise difficult to comprehend, and Ruby's consistent work to ensure each student had the chance to take on their own initiatives, to improve school life. Also, Hayley, who championed each and every student, prioritising each of us as we needed it. We want to thank Sarah and Janet for their dedicated work in helping organise clubs and activities. They really gave us the motivation to go for every opportunity with all we had, and we thank them all for teaching us how to keep going in the face of adversity.



I think our year, Class of 2023, will be known for many things, but above all else, I think we will be known for our persistence, assertiveness, and maturity. This is especially due to the work of those members of our year who participated in the Student Council. Through tireless work and putting in many hours outside of their already taxing studies, they have shown a real willingness to improve the environment of the college, often through lobbying and civil debate.

One of the times I was most proud of our year is when we were faced with the introduction of compulsory evening supervised study lessons. Many students were concerned about how they would impact their own study schedules, something which had been overlooked, and so they got together of their own accord and discussed how to respond. A calm and mature discussion ensued, and lobbying was successful, all due to the amazing integrity displayed by my peers.

I think as this year draws to a close, the lasting memories of my time here really come back to me. For one, a notable evening was the Poetry by Heart competition, an evening some of us spent months preparing for, ready to recite verses of classic literature we had learnt by heart. Another key event was the annual sports day. Both sports days I attended during my A level course really brought home to me the outstanding teamwork displayed by my peers. From encouraging cheers to technical advice, and each and every one of us pulling our weight, each successive obstacle we overcame and each sport we participated in, showed me just how dedicated and persevering my peers are.

I know this because I have seen us overcome obstacles and accomplish big and small things. We have been inspired by the likes of Saad, who showed great tenacity in running in, and eventually winning, our Mastermind competition; the kindness of Assel, Lion house captain, who spearheaded a valentine's day fundraiser to help those affected by the Turkey-Syria earthquake; and so many others. When we raised money for the victims of the earthquake, we learned that each of us has the power to impact the world when we work together.

International day, a day of celebration of our individual cultures, characterised for me what is so special about this school. The wide range of cultures this school is home to gives rise to a feeling of solidarity, and a reason to initiate discussion amongst us, to solve problems in our rapidly developing, globalised world. It gives us the power to stand up for ourselves, make decisions and lead debate. That power does not stop when we leave this school. As we make decisions about the future, we enter the world with our eyes wide open, determined to make the changes required to secure our future and care for our earth.

As you continue your education journey onwards, to university or another course, I would like to leave you with these words. At university, and in later life, you will be constantly surrounded by people who are just as bright, if not brighter than you. You are already very intelligent students, even if the many tests and late nights you had to face made you think you weren't. But at university, you will merely be a face in the crowd. Therefore, in a situation where everyone is smart, distinguish yourself by being kind.



Class of 2023, we did it!

Thank you.

**Meriel Rodgers, Valedictorian**



# PICNIC ON THE GREEN









Dominic Tomalin,  
Principal

Graduation Address

To the class of 2023, today is a celebration of your time with us, your progress, your achievements.

The last year will be remembered for many things. In the UK, we have lost a Queen and gained a King. We also managed to have three prime ministers, I think, in the course of the first half term.

And we have seen the emergence of open access AI in the form of Generative Pre-Trained Transformers, GPTs. GPTs are already proving useful tools in the workplace and in our approach to teaching. Used sensibly and thoughtfully they have the potential to allow us all to become better versions of ourselves, to learn faster, better and more deeply.

We are entering a new exciting and terrifying era in our evolution.

Humanity has consistently demonstrated that we are poor custodians of new technologies and powers. We are very prone to employ them to our own benefit at the expense, if not the defeat and/or the destruction of others.

It is perhaps the greatest irony of our age that for all the connectivity afforded us by modern technologies, we find ourselves lonelier and more divided than we have been for generations. In many respects we have lost of our sense of what amounts to the common good. Yet, without a sense of the common good, how can any of us really assess the solutions proposed by AI, or set solution parameters on the AI that precludes it from deciding that one group or another, or for that matter, all of humanity, is the problem and the solution is its removal?

This then is the challenge to us all, but notably it is challenge I set for you, the class of 2023. We really do need to understand what it is that we each believe to be the 'common good'.

It is much harder to define than you might think, and we must seek clarity. Please give it some thought.

I should add that Meriel, in her valedictory speech, has done an excellent job of setting you on the right track; distinguish yourself through kindness. In my view kindness is the key.

That's all a bit serious I know, particularly so for a celebration. There is much fun to be had with GPTs. Having read Meriel's words in advance, I asked ChatGPT to offer a short poem on the topic of kindness, and to do so written in the combined styles of William Shakespeare and Spike Milligan, here's what it came up with:

*Oh, kindness, thou dost dance with mirth,  
Sprinkling joy upon this transient earth.  
Thy jests, like jingles in a jester's jest,  
Bring laughter, soothing hearts in jest.  
Forsooth, this world needs kindness, 'tis clear,  
To banish sorrow, to quell all fear.  
Shakespeare's sonnets, with tenderness profound,  
Echo Milligan's laughter, joy unbound.  
In jest and verse, let kindness be our guide,  
A gentle touch, a warmth we can't hide.  
With words as weapons, let kindness prevail,  
And harmony within our souls set sail.  
So let us weave a tapestry so grand,  
With Milligan's whimsy and Shakespeare's  
command.  
In this combined verse, a truth so bright,  
Kindness, the beacon that guides our light.*

All that remains is for me to wish you a restful and recuperative summer. Best wishes to the Class of 2023 – stay in touch. Let me know about the 'common good', and be kind. I look forward to seeing everyone else in September.

Safe travels

Good afternoon.



Dominic Tomalin,  
Principal





# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

## *The Graduate Leaving College*

What summons do I hear?  
The morning peal, departure's knell;  
My eyes let fall a friendly tear,  
And bid this place farewell.

Attending servants come,  
The carriage wheels like thunders roar,  
To bear the pensive seniors home,  
Here to be seen no more.

Pass one more transient night,  
The morning sweeps the college clean;  
The graduate takes his last long flight,  
No more in college seen.

The bee, which courts the flower,  
Must with some pain itself employ,  
And then fly, at the day's last hour,  
Home to its hive with joy.

**George Moses Horton**