

LEAVERS MASS AT NOTRE DAME

(Year 11)

You're the Class of 2019. A day will come when you'll look back rather nostalgically on your class photo and ponder what became of my classmates? What avenue did life take them down? But as some of you are about to say a last goodbye to your secondary school the following questions might seem relevant. How will my fellow pupils and teachers remember me during my time here? What will stand out in their minds? What will I remember about them? I'm sure the happy memories will come to the fore.

Shakespeare said 'they have their exits and their entrances'. Perhaps it's the story of our lives – leaving the familiar and embarking on something new. You wouldn't be normal if those who are leaving didn't feel a little bit sad today to be saying goodbye to Notre Dame. You'll remember with gratitude the teachers who inspired you and the friendships you forged throughout your years here. Five years ago, you left the secure world of primary school and now, once more emerge from the rather sheltered world of Notre Dame and embark on the big bad world whether it be to further education or work. Of course the world is not as big or bad as some cynics make out. The vast majority of people out there are basically decent.

Don't they say that 'life is what you make it?' That's true but we're not journeying alone – the more friends you have the better especially the ones which stay in touch. I know you have social media these days but there's no substitute for meeting in the flesh - It's the real thing.

And keep healthy in body and soul. What do you they say: 'a healthy mind in a healthy body'? People who have faith in God live far more fulfilled lives than those who don't. People who know they are loved by God and who live according to His way will have a far more

optimistic outlook on life and will be better placed to face life's challenges. The choice is yours.

Anyway I wish you all the best as some of you bid farewell to your School. You deserve the best because you are the best. Keep reminding yourself of that.