

Greetings! Hello every one, I am Satoru Kamibayashi, a former student of this school and this IB programme, some of you may know me especially grade 8 to 12, but this is the first time I have met the grade 7s, it is nice to meet and see you all.

I have come here today to congratulate grade 12s for completing the Diploma Programme and the grade 10s for finishing the Middle Years Programmes. I used to be grade 10 and 12 a few years ago so I know how hard it was to overcome all of the homework and assignments that you have faced.

As of today, your school education is over and the flourishing university life is waiting for you, grade 12s, and it is the moment for grade 10s to finally enter the so-called “DP marathon”, so be prepared and study hard and you will do very well.

I would like to talk about my experiences in the IB programme and my life since I graduated from Tamagawa a year ago, giving a brief example of post-IB life in college.

I joined this programme in 2010, when I was in grade 7. I used to live in Thailand and Indonesia, so I had no trouble speaking and understanding English, but I found the academic side of school quite tough and had to work hard to get good grades, so I did struggle, to say the least, going through all tasks, which the programme required us to complete. I was also involved in the Brass band, which is one of the busiest clubs in this school, so I had to work on both IB work and my club activity. When I was in grade 10, I decided to study abroad in Canada for about a year, to escape from the bustle of school life, to improve my English, and to broaden my perspective. It contributed me to ameliorate the way of thinking and to prepare for the upcoming Diploma Programme. After coming back from Canada, I started the DP programme with new classmates.

The Diploma Programme was very challenging. I worked hard do my best in the exams. However, The Diploma Programme isn't just about the final exams but what you study is by far the most important thing through the programme. When I was a student, I took a wide range of subjects: Japanese literature, English, Economics, ESS, Math and Visual arts. I was a typical “Bunkei” student. But my subject selection is helping me quite a lot in my university because ESS is closely related to Environmental Science and History, and those are related Economics as well, in a sense that both ESS and Economics dismantles the whole society as a system. The knowledge we learn in the DP is preceding what we learn in University so learning these unique subjects for two years will definitely help you to understand the fields you will study at university in depth.

Right now, I am studying at Waseda University. I have found that if you study hard enough in the IB, university will not be a huge stress for you because you know how to overcome tasks and you know how to prepare and deal with the stress of exams. It is not rare for an

exam in a certain subject to overlap with other subjects, but this is the nature of the IB so I am pretty sure that it won't be a stress for you. Some of you may find university classes a bit less challenging because the university lessons are usually teachers reading out of a textbook and showing you PowerPoints which are usually directly copied and pasted from the textbook but remember, education is not what they give you but what you receive from them so everything completely depends on you. If you study hard, you will still learn something from each class. Because I was able to complete the whole IB programme, I was able to develop "critical thinking" which is crucial at University. I also obtained a decent level of English and knowledge, which allowed me to go through the exams that are held to choose a candidate of a studying abroad programme. This led to me being chosen as one of the 13 students out of 65 applicants as a candidate. Hence, I get to study abroad at University of California Berkeley next year for about a year, and I am looking forward to seeing many new people from different backgrounds.

Since we left last year, I and the other graduates have accomplished many things, which is valid proof that the IB programme was and is a very valuable experience for us. To the Kouhais who are pretty much confused with what to do with your life right now, especially grade 7s and grade 10s, you know when grown-ups tell you everything's going to be fine, but you really think they are lying to make you feel better? Let me tell you one thing: "Everything's going to be fine". The IB and Diploma Programme are not easy, but if you prepare enough, you will just do fine.

Finally, I want to share one last quote by Donald Rumsfeld "There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know."

Enjoy things you do not know, knowing things you did not know. Again congratulations to you all who are graduating today. I hope the next year brings you many new and exciting experiences. Thank you for listening.

Satoru Kamibayashi