

Speech to 2017 Prizegiving Celebration at Martinborough School

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa.

Mr Nelson, Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls.

I'm Kirsty Shepherd, I'm the Chair of the Board of Trustees and I'm delighted to be here today to celebrate the achievements of all the bright, athletic, talented and positive children at Martinborough School.

At prizegiving last year I talked about team work, about having collective goals and purpose, about relying on each other and trusting our leadership. This team, that we're all a part of, has worked incredibly hard this year, and collectively, we've achieved great things. We should all be very proud.

Individually, whether you receive a prize this afternoon or not, I hope you feel that the efforts each of you invested in your year's work, sport, behaviour and citizenship, have been rewarded, and you are proud of YOUR achievements. Opportunity is only as good as the use you make of it, the effort you put in. You have made the most of the opportunities presented to you, and you have achieved success. That's what we're here to celebrate this afternoon.

But the secret to achievement is not just being presented with opportunities for learning and growth, but challenging yourself to better your last result. Having high expectations of ourselves and those around us is a great mark of team character.

We have high expectations of our leaders. The most crucial ingredient in a team that achieves historical greatness is the character of the person who leads it. A leader is someone who cultivates what is already there, who listens, and who builds from the ground up, who is tough and patient. We are lucky that on this team we have a leader who has the enthusiasm and commitment to lead our team and turn the vision we all have for Martinborough School into every day action. I congratulate you, Mr Nelson, on another year of successes.

We have high expectations of our staff.

This team of teachers are professional, hard working, set high standards for themselves and our children, and they are constantly innovating, challenging and learning alongside each other.

We could not ask for any more from this team of teachers and teacher aides. They are dedicated to the children of Martinborough School. I would personally like to thank you ALL for your dedication to the vision and the team, for your enthusiasm and commitment, for your patience and your good humour.

At Martinborough School we ask our students to think for themselves and take responsibility for their own learning. In doing so, we set high standards and have created a culture of curiosity, innovation, and continuous improvement in this learning environment. Everyone on this team gets better at what they do every day. That's what we stand for ... here ... at Martinborough School!

We have high expectations of our community. We ask a lot from you, and we thank you for your support. We value our partnerships with Whanau and parents, and the family feel of our school. We want the best for all our children and we need your help to cheer them on. The reason our team works well is because you support our vision.

To the Year 8 Graduates,

Set high expectations of yourselves. We hold high hopes for you.

Each of you has had the opportunity to learn, to be part of a community of friends and teachers, to discover and improve yourselves.

As you move on to high school, now is the time to think about what you want to accomplish. Take the values of learning and respect which you have adopted and embodied at Martinborough School, challenge yourselves, embrace expectations, be a risk taker. Self-improvement is about prioritising better values, taking responsibility. Opportunity is only as good as the effort you put in. You ALL have an opportunity. YOU choose what you make of it.

Thank you very much.