

Dear Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Graduates and Friends,

I have always believed that ACI is a unique place that can hold different meanings for everyone that had the chance to be a part of this campus. For me it has been an experience. A five-year long journey, which feels like a shorter version of life. I have grown so much in these years. The girl that stood as the ninth in prep line, waiting to be announced as the class of 2017 was quite different. I have not only changed physically, my character has developed and I learned a lot about myself and life. In prep year I was afraid to talk in class and now I am making this speech to 1000 people during an opening ceremony. All those projects we made, books we read, discussions we made created a small mountain of information inside my brain. By the time I leave at the end of this school year, I am certain that I will be successful at university.

I am sure at least half of the amphi is already dreaming about the day the school will end. Some prep students might be thinking that they might have made a mistake by choosing a five year long high school over four year ones. Let me say this, that one year you think you are missing will teach so much to you that you will feel grateful when the time comes. For now, you have five years ahead of you so make the most and best of it. During those five years you will face many obstacles but there is always a solution and friends and teachers to help you deal with it. Almost every year there will be an important decision that you have to make. Choosing a field, taking the IB or not, where you want to go to university...Do not forget that you are deciding for yourself and nobody else. Participate in school activities as much as you can because I do not think that any other school will surround you with this many memories. As you come down the steps of the Amphi Theater you will understand what I mean.

Every year is a new beginning in ACI because nothing is constant. Change can be seen in everything and everyone but at the same time it also feels like nothing has changed. This school has the ability to protect its main features so despite the changes it is still very familiar to us, even to prep students. And some might think this is "the end" for seniors but it is not because every ending is a new beginning. This year is our last experience but the first one as a Lise 4 student. So whether you are starting this journey or coming to an end, enjoy the time you have because memories can be recalled but time cannot be reversed.

Nazlı İris Özen