

**Scoil Chroí Naofa**

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**“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams, live the life you’ve imagined”**

[**Henry David Thoreau**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Henry_David_Thoreau/) **- *US Transcendentalist author (1817 - 1862)***

26/06/2020

Dear Graduate and Family,

Thank you all for watching our Graduation video. Wasn’t it just beautiful? Thank you Mrs Seery for making it. Seeing you, the pupils of 6th class alongside the activities you got up to from September to March was lovely and to share it with your family is a fitting way to remind you of your achievements before we parted. Although we cannot celebrate your graduation with the usual aplomb, I wanted to write you all a letter to let you know how proud we are of you and that tonight we are thinking of you in a special way.

Boys and Girls, Today is the end of an era for you. An end that should have been full of School Tours, Sports day, signing t-shirts and that most important final walk out the school while the whole school stands to attention and gives you a guard of honour. Alas this pandemic had other plans for us and we are now together apart.

The past few years have seen you work exceptionally hard. All of the staff of Scoil Chroí Naofa remember you as young children starting school, looking somewhat overwhelmed by the whole experience. We are the lucky ones who have had the privilege of helping you with your educational growth. We have watched your parents and extended families support you and today is testament to the achievements of you the graduates and the love and support you have received over the years.

Every graduate reading this has worked very hard to make the best of themselves. You have persevered and worked towards your goals in a determined way. Each one of you has grown in a way that you should be proud. You arrive at the end of 6th class, a skilled and valuable group, all ready to tackle the next set of challenges which will ensure you grow further.

Growth comes in many ways. Throughout school activities, helping others and dealing with the changes every school student has to go through, as well as achieving at school. You have shown a readiness to tackle all these areas. This has given you a rounded education. It has also meant you have grown into well-rounded young people. Celebrate tonight. While these celebrations are not a fitting end to your school days in Scoil Chroí Naofa they do prove one thing - that you are a resilient bunch.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back when things go wrong and my, have you proven your resilience to us since our school closed in March. You have shown maturity to work through your weekly school plan, week on week. You have adapted to new methods of communication and engagement with Mrs. Seery through email. You have exercised your coping skills by respecting decisions made on a national level and are only now getting to see your friends 2 metres apart.

In his poem “To a mouse”, Robert Burns laments “the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry”. Throughout Covid-19 you have learned this valuable life lesson and have proven that you can adapt well in the face of adversity. Remember this trait as you move forward through to adulthood.

I wish to thank all the parents for their willingness to help and support our school. Your active participation in your child’s education was hugely appreciated by us in Scoil Chroí Naofa. We have valued your input at all times. We are indebted to you for guiding your child through the last few months of “school” and for stepping in, when we had to step out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who were an integral part of the Parents Association in Scoil Chroí Naofa down through the years and to those who were valued members on Boards of Management.

I want to thank all of the staff of Scoil Chroí Naofa. They do not seek any praise but their skill and dedication to the task of educating your children is enormous. They too stepped up to the plate during remote learning and on your behalf I wish them a safe and enjoyable break.

Back to you, the graduates! To Alan, Chloe, Lucy, Mikey, Jack, Ronan, Lauryn, Callum, Fionn, Alesha, James, Nathan, Molly, Aoibhinn, Aoife, Shane, Brooke, Makayla, Kelso, Sarah, Molly, Dylan, Jack, Josiah, Larry, Evan, Frank, Naoise, Amy and Ellen- The future holds many challenges and successes for all of you. Each of you will have your own unique opportunities to grow. I am confident you will rise to every occasion. Let me wish you all the best for the future. Always be proud of who you are, what you are, where you’ve come from and always, always, have the courage to follow your dreams!

I’ll Leave you now with a quote from AA Milne’s Winnie the Pooh, It’s about friendship to remind you of the strong friendships you have made in Scoil Chroí Naofa.

“Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.   
"Pooh!" he whispered.  
"Yes, Piglet?"  
"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw. "I just wanted to be sure of you.”

“Friendship," said Christopher Robin, "is a very comforting thing to have.”

Take Care, Enjoy your Summer, Remember we are so very proud of you.

Wishing you every success and happiness in your new school.

Is mise le meas,

Kathleen McNamee

Principal