Student Response Speech Alice Beltchev

Your Excellency, Minister, distinguished guests, school representatives, family, friends and, most importantly, the students.

We are here to celebrate and congratulate the academic achievements of the South Australian Certificate of Education Class of 2017.

I feel so privileged to have the opportunity to address you today before such an incredible group of peers and I know that I speak for all my **fellow** graduates when I say it is truly an honour to be recognised and congratulated at today’s ceremony.

It seems only fair to begin by applauding the efforts of the SACE graduates of 2017. I don’t think any of us could say these past 13 years of education have been easy, especially this last year with the stresses of completing our secondary education.

But with perseverance and hard work, we have developed the strength and skills to help continue to achieve excellence in our future endeavours, whatever they may be.

I want to acknowledge the great debt of gratitude we all owe to our parents and guardians during our educational journey.

They have been the constant, steady supports that have given us reassurance and confidence in ourselves as we navigated our new and, sometimes, intimidating tasks.

Their unwavering love and effort has truly been a lifeline throughout this journey, and for that, I would like to say thank you on behalf of the graduates of 2017.

Without your support, we would not be the people we are today.

I would also like to thank our teachers. As our educational guides, they have helped us navigate our way through the many **trials** and tribulations of our schooling.

They went beyond their role as teachers, inspiring us to look deeper into our subjects, look more deeply into the curriculum and its real-world applications, and develop ourselves, along with our knowledge.

I know the support from my teachers guided me, and pushed me, so I could achieve to the best of my abilities. So on behalf of the 2017 graduates, we thank you for making our education go beyond the classroom, and extending us to our full potential.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the SACE Board. The extensive, flexible learning we were able to experience through the SACE allowed each graduate to explore education in the way that best suited them.

With subjects like the Research Project, we were able to develop our abilities, and ourselves as learners, preparing us for our future educational adventures.

For me, the most important part of SACE was the broad curriculum, which allowed us to discover our passions and pursue them in our education.

The range of subjects allowed me to discover and explore my opposing scientific and artistic interests, developing my knowledge and igniting my passion in both fields.

On behalf of all the 2017 graduates, I would like to thank the SACE for the many doors it has unlocked for us, and the many doors it will open in the future.

To finish, I would like to say a final congratulation to my fellow graduates. While math taught me linear equations, education is not always a linear path.

His Excellency is an inspiring example of the power and enjoyment of education and the places it can take you.

Our starting point is the same but our journeys will all be different. We have completed a huge milestone of our lives, and now we must head into the unknown.

In the great words of Leo Buscaglia, “change is the end result of all true learning”. This change is a scary concept, but I know that each and every one of us will make the most of the incredible range of opportunities that are available to us.

Thank you, and the best of luck.