

Head Boy Speech – Ronan Doherty

First off, I'd like to thank everyone for coming down to watch. I know many of you have rushed back from the Glasgow open day, and I think I can speak on behalf of my fellow candidates here at the front when I say that we are all grateful for the effort you've made to be here.

I would like to first briefly emphasise to you what I believe are the main values of Saint Ninian's. Ultimately, in my opinion, this school is based on two vital factors: the Catholic faith, and a drive for excellence, which very much go hand in hand. As I'm sure we are all aware, St. Ninian's was quite rightly named as Scotland's best state school. We are indeed all part of a system where the vast majority enjoys a great deal of success in terms of qualifications, but also through sporting achievements. However, most importantly, we as pupils, in conjunction with our excellent levels of study, are renowned for our drive to be better people, and for our conduct in line with the religious principles of the school. And in 6th year this should be, in my opinion, seen as its most prevalent. In fact, if anything I would like to invest my times and effort as head boy in ensuring that we as a year group become not only prime examples of model students to younger years, but also prime examples of decency and selfless value in the local area.

In regards to said values, I'd like to touch on something Mrs Carroll brought to the year's attention at assembly recently. As we know, this year in itself is very much a different ball game. Yes, getting the grades is important, but what truly makes you a **St Ninian's** 6th year is how you develop yourself as a fully rounded person, both in your work with various charities, and within the faith life of the school. Undoubtedly, one of the most fulfilling ways of doing this is indeed through services to the local community, which I would thoroughly like to encourage and promote, as they would provide both rewarding and worthwhile experiences to every single person sitting in this room.

However, I feel that personally, the local community that **my** abilities would most benefit, is that of the school's. As I'm sure all of you will agree, we as pupils have been provided with a great deal of opportunities, whether it's been through the various school trips on offer, or the numerous hours teachers have given up for supported study. As a result of this backing, I feel that this year, it is my duty to return the favour. And if you, my fellow peers, along with the various members of staff, would be willing to back me in this venture in terms of a team effort and all-round commitment, I give you my word, that we as a school can produce a year group that Mr Docherty, Mr Creighton, and all of us can be proud of.

Throughout my 5 years I've developed many aspects of my personality and character that I believe would make me more than suitable for this position. Thanks to my 4 years on the pupil council representing both my class and on various occasions **our** whole year group, my leadership skills and confidence have grown in abundance, to such an extent, that I stand here before you to make the final claim, that these qualities make me the right man for this job.

I have completed a sports leader course. I have participated in Duke of Edinburgh. I have captained my football team. I have been in various positions where I have taken responsibility for not only myself but others who have relied on me to lead, and **to lead** by example. The pupils, the staff, everyone who is associated with this prestigious school, needs a head boy who will always be committed and will always strive to achieve the excellence that this fantastic year group deserves. If this is truly the kind of head boy that you want, then I believe you know where your vote lies.

Thank you very much.