

## HEAD GIRL SPEECH

When reflecting back on my time at this school, the first thing that I realised is that very few of my treasured memories actually involve doing much schoolwork. Despite that, I realised that after receiving five years of Mayfield education, I must have learnt a few important lessons along the way.

And I certainly have;

Such as not to wear sandals while playing croquet,  
And that what starts as a friendly match can soon give way to foul play.  
I've learnt that when it comes to poker I'm not the most lucky,  
It's certainly a relief we didn't play with real money.  
I've learnt that Mayfield really knows how to do Burns' Night in fashion,  
And that sometimes it's far better to ask for forgiveness than permission.  
I've learnt that darts are easily broken and that in a game of traitor you can never fully trust one another.  
Oh, how I'll miss our prefect suppers!

I've learnt that we can write and perform our very own play,  
And that nothing brings it quite to life like improvisation on the day.  
Although, not all homemade special effects are allowed, much to my dismay.

I've learnt that a gingerbread school can become an internet sensation,  
If you know a journalist, 415 schoolgirls and a pastry chef willing to assemble the creation.  
Although, I do have a slight confession to make...  
I couldn't quite resist sampling the bake,  
Especially when it was fruit for break!

I've learnt that when December rolls around it's time for Live Crib,  
But prefects of next year: there is no point in stressing,  
Because, like Mary, you can never know quite what to expect when you're expecting.  
The snowstorm was a slight snag when it came to getting a full cast around the cradle,  
But it did mean that we got to make some pretty authentic snow angels.  
I've learnt that a donkey is better than a pony, but a pony better than none,  
And that sometimes a plastic doll might have to stand in for God's only son.  
But all that is superfluous because at the end of the day,  
Like many things in life, it all works out if you just have a little faith.  
(And, perhaps in this case, some willing year 12s to save the day).

As for actual classes, I must have learnt some lessons to relate,  
Even if I did sometimes have a tendency to be late.

I've learnt that having Dr Corvan as your physics teacher should perhaps come with a warning;  
Because you'll be simultaneously deriving equations and debating the very meaning of our existence first thing on a Monday morning.

And why take one maths A-level when you can take two?  
Only first order differential equations simply won't do.

When it came to learning history, a documentary is all it took.  
Babushka Polina is certainly a character for the books!

I've learnt that if you want to make a podcast, Mr Ferguson's your guy.  
I can't wait to hear the future episodes of Spicy Takes on Spotify.

I've learnt that PE will never be cancelled, no matter what the weather,  
But, if the rain starts to pour, I've heard that Mr Doy is pretty good with an umbrella...

I've learnt that when it comes to university interviews sometimes all you can do is pray  
And, in my case, dearly hope that you've learnt some maths and physics along the way.

I've learnt that as confident as you may be in your ability to do it all,  
Sometimes you'll really need to have a friend or sister to call.

And speaking of friends, I've learnt that I shall dearly miss mine.  
I'd like to thank them all, especially those I've known since year nine.

We've made priceless memories and had a few near escapes that I won't mention now;  
I don't need to - I'm sure they'll know exactly what I'm talking about...

But, as I'm on the topic of thank yous,  
I'd better say the rest, as I have quite a few to get through.

Now the last time I was up here, I thanked the wrong nun,  
So hopefully this time in my thanks I won't mix up anyone.

I'd like to thank all the prefects, especially Hannah and Lia,  
For all their great organisation and wonderful ideas.  
Miss Cheery and Mr Joy, the dynamic team  
Who played along with every subsequent scheme.  
All of the boarding houses, Gabrielle's, Michelle's and Duncan's.  
Oh, sorry, I think that should be St Gabriel's, Michael's and Dunstan's.

All the students, teachers and support staff, there are certainly a few  
Though I won't list them all here as I might mix them up to.

But, no matter how forgetful I can sometimes be,  
I couldn't forget to thank my family.

So it seems that my thank yous didn't quite go to plan,  
But, I suppose that's okay, because before I even began  
I perhaps should have mentioned that is there's one thing I'll take  
From my time at Mayfield is that it's okay to make mistakes.

Really, the greatest lesson I've learnt is that I'll never stop learning,  
But every time I'm in doubt I'm sure I'll be returning  
To all the crucial lessons that I've learnt in my school years  
(And, as I suspected, here come the tears).  
This list of the lessons I've learnt is hardly complete  
And I'm sure that everyone here has a similar list, equally unique.

I know that Mayfield far prefers actions to words,  
So I hope you won't mind just a few more to complete this verse.

For I have one last thing to say;  
A piece of advice to take away.

Which is that if all else fails and everything has seemingly gone wrong,  
With enough confidence, you can always pretend that whatever happened was your  
intention all along.