

令和2年度 1学期始業式式辞

Starting Point of the 2020 Academic Year

I had planned to talk about two things today: first, that I do hope you follow the rules that I have made for the period of the Olympic Games; second, that you should keep on learning so as to be able to help change society for the better. But I've changed my mind.

Boys and girls, tomorrow, on Tuesday, we had been scheduled to have our 75th Entrance Ceremony, and all of you must have been looking forward to this experience. Many of you had been planning to try to induce freshmen to join in your club activities. There must be a lot of good things that you want to pass on to them. I hope you will tell them a lot about our school and its proud traditions.

But not tomorrow. On the news I have heard the government is going to declare a state of emergency tomorrow. We have to protect ourselves medically first. The Metropolitan Board of Education has decided to postpone the beginning of the 2020 academic year until after the end of the Golden Week holidays in May. Until then, you will come to school in groups of your own particular grades, or individually, once or twice a week. There will be no club activities, no extracurricular activities, no school excursions, and no study hours in the study rooms of our school. This is an emergency situation.

And even if we are able to resume lessons after the end of the Golden Week, we will not have enough time to compensate for the hours we will lose in April. That is why I have decided to give you 7 lessons a day over the two months of May and June, plus five days after the first trimester examinations, making lesson hours shorter than usual, to 45 minutes for each—starting at 8:30 and finishing at 15:20, which will give you enough time for club activities. The fundamental role of high school is to give you a curriculum from which you will be able to learn things necessary for you to make yourselves wiser and stronger. I know it will be hard for you to study longer hours a day than you would under the original curriculum, but this is essential for all of you.

There may also be no training camps for club activities in the summer. And if the spread of the new coronavirus has not ceased by then, we might be forced to give up having the Gaien-sai, or we might be forced to perform plays without audiences. I'm not sure when or how the spread might cease, but will take a year or more for an antidote or a vaccine to be developed. **It seems almost an**

impossible hope that you will all have as fulfilling student lives at Aoyama High School as we would wish. I have to tell you again that thus is an emergency situation. We must be patient, wise, and strong enough to win this fight against a surge of COVID-19.

I know how uncomfortable and inconvenient this will be for you. I know it must seem unfair that you have to experience this horrible nationwide and worldwide infectious disease outbreak. But as you have probably heard, worldwide, more than 1,100,000 people (in the morning, now 1,200,000 people) have been infected with the virus, and more than 60,000 people (in the morning, now 68,000 people) have died from it. I'm afraid the spreading may soon become much more serious in Africa and Central and South America. I do hope you will understand the situation and will follow the rules that I have made.

One more thing—I hope all of you will be gentle and kind with one another, not ignoring your friends or speaking ill of them. Every student deserves respect. As I often tell you, diversity among students is very important. Any school without diversity would be unable to offer sufficient stimulation to students' curiosity. It is essential for you to spend your school lives in friendly rivalry with others who are better than you in certain fields. And one last thing: I would like you to compare two scripts of today's speech—before and after revision—which I will soon have posted on our school website.

Thank you very much.

719 words

令和2年度 入学に際しての言葉

令和2年4月7日

東京都立青山高等学校長

小澤 哲郎

新入生の皆さん、入学おめでとうございます。

さて、昨年末に発生した新型コロナウイルス感染症の世界的な拡大により、このような形で入学許可を行うことになり、皆さんも困惑しているでしょうし、保護者の方々も残念でならないと思います。わずか3週間前の3月中旬には、感染者数は全世界で10万人、死者はおおよそ5,000人でしたが、今や感染者は120万人、死者は68,000人と報道されています。ワクチンや新薬の開発までには1年かそれ以上かかる見込みだとも言われています。私たち一人一人が正しい行動をとることでは、オーバーシュートを防ぐことはできません。私たち教職員は皆さんと共に、強い意思と忍耐力で、この難局を乗り切りたいと思います。入学式は、後日改めて実施します。

さて、青山高校は、昭和15年に東京府立第15中学校として開校し、本年1月18日に創立80年を迎えた、伝統ある進学校です。11月には、創立80周年記念式典を行います。皆さんは、まさに節目の年に青山高校に入学するわけです。

本校は、東京都教育委員会の「進学指導重点校」の指定を受けています。AD ALTA「高きを望め青山で」をスローガンに、一人一人の生徒が、知性と感性を磨き、心身の健康を培いながら、高みを目指す学校です。

学習の成果は、授業に臨む目的意識によって左右されます。授業の理解度も、学んだことを応用する力も、そして学力向上の実感も、目的意識をもっている生徒の方が圧倒的に高いことが証明されています。本校では、こうしたエビデンスに基づき、全ての教科・科目の学習到達目標を設定するとともに、授業のねらいを明確に示し、学んだことを活用する場面を与えることを通して、主体的に学ぶ力を育成しています。また、ホームルーム活動においても、発表や話し合い活動を重視して生徒の自主性を育むとともに、生徒に対して学校生活や将来の進路への期待を担任が定期的に表明することにより、主体的に学び続けようとする態度も培うよう努めています。

みなさんには、学ぶことは楽しいという実感がもてるようになってほしいと願っています。また、体育祭や外苑祭などの学校行事や部活動も、健康な心身をつくり、教養を高めるうえで極めて重要です。様々な体験や友人との切磋琢磨を通して、人間として大きく成長していくことを期待します。

本校は、都教育委員会指定の英語教育推進校でもあることから、少しでも皆さんに英語でお伝えします。

Boys and girls, congratulations on your admission to Aoyama High School, one of the most highly selective of all Metropolitan high schools! I would like to talk about two things at this starting point in your high school lives.

First, looking back on the year 2019, we have witnessed some good things, one of which was the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito. His Majesty Emperor Naruhito ascended to the throne last October and rode in a parade on the 10th of November. A new era has begun. There are expectations that Emperor Naruhito, the first emperor with a college degree who also studied abroad, will, together with Empress Masako, internationalize the imperial household.

Second, some economists say two-thirds of human jobs will be replaced by IoT and AI. It is hard to imagine how our society might change in the next ten years. That's why you all should be lifelong learners. I think we learn because we want to be happier. And to stop learning means to stop becoming happier. If you stop learning, you will not be able to adapt yourselves to changes in our society. If you can't be happy yourself, you won't be able to make our society better. You will learn critical thinking and methodology at our school. That will help you adapt yourselves to new realities. And skills in mathematics and science are relevant in many fields of study and employment.

I have told you two things: first, that we have welcomed in a new era, and, second, that you should become lifelong learners.

In closing my speech, I would like to tell you one more thing. Aoyama High School is a school in which each student lives in friendly rivalry with others. There will surely be hardships and, perhaps, bitter experiences. However, such things are necessary for you to become mature. But if it is hard striving to solve your problems all by yourselves, please talk to us. We will all do whatever we can to help out, and we will always be at your side, close to you.

Thank you very much.

本校では、授業評価や学校評価等の結果を随時学校ホームページに公表し、授業をはじめとする教育活動の充実・改善を保護者や生徒の皆さんと共に進めています。皆さんの青山高校での生活が充実したものとなり、ひいては、青山高校のさらなる発展につながることを期待しています。

令和2年度 1学期終業式式辞

At the end of the first trimester, 2020

First of all, I would like to express my sympathy to the families and the loved ones of those who died or are still missing because of the floods caused by the heavy rain on Kyushu island two weeks ago. They had had the heavy rains for almost ten days. The floods took more than 70 lives, for whom each we mourn. Looking back on the past few decades, we have been suffering from countless natural disasters. I know it is impossible for us to prevent them from occurring. However, I want to believe that it will be possible to reduce the damage which they produce.

We were sailing along smoothly until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were forced to lockdown our school for nearly three months, starting from the beginning of last March. We have had to cancel or postpone our March school trip, the Sports Day in June, and the 80th Anniversary Ceremony in November. You had also been looking forward to seeing Olympic track-and-field events at the New National Stadium. We also have to reform the Gaien-sai Festival in August. Using a totally different style, and definitely with creative use of ICT. These unfortunate reversals have been especially disappointing to you, your guardians, and my fellow teachers.

Protecting you and teachers from the COVID-19 infection while maintaining educational activities will certainly be far from easy. The threat of the virus has, however, provided an important impetus toward improving our ICT capacity and instituting online teaching, and the efforts of our highly motivated teachers, along with volunteer work by alumni and alumnae, have made it possible to accomplish much in this area.

At the beginning of the first trimester, on the 6th of April, I told the 11th and 12th graders about the news I had heard. That is more than 1,100,000 people have been infected with the virus, and more than 60,000 people have died from it. I told you that I was afraid the spreading may soon become much more serious in Africa, and Central and South America. Now, more than 17 million people have been infected worldwide, and 700 thousand people have died from it. The outbreak of this virus has been spreading enormously in North and South America, and who knows how serious it has been in Africa.

Until the spread of the new Coronavirus has ceased, we might be forced to give up many things that we could do before the virus

had spread. I'm not sure when or how the spread might cease, but will take a year or more for a vaccine to be developed. It seems almost an impossible hope that you will all have as fulfilling student lives here at Aoyama High School as we would wish. I have to tell you again that this is still an emergency situation. We must be patient, wise, and strong enough to win this fight against another surge of COVID-19.

I know how uncomfortable and inconvenient this will be for you. I know it must seem unfair that you have to experience this horrible nationwide and worldwide infectious disease outbreak. Despite all the difficulties which must surely still lie ahead, I believe it will be possible to maintain the high Aoyama High School standards while creating valuable new traditions for the future, and it is my most fervent hope that we do just that.

One more thing—I hope all of you will be gentle and kind with one another, not ignoring your friends or speaking ill of them. Every student deserves respect. As I often tell you, diversity among students is very important. Any school without diversity would be unable to offer sufficient stimulation to students' curiosity. It is essential for you to spend your school lives in friendly rivalry with others who are better than you in certain fields.

Thank you very much.

645 words

568 words except a highlighted part

令和2年度 2学期始業式式辞

At the Beginning of the second trimester, 2020 Academic Year

Boys and girls, I would like to talk about two things at the beginning of the second trimester.

First, the outbreak of the new coronavirus has concerned all of us during these past six months. We have seen very many people infected with COVID-19 worldwide—and more than 800,000 deaths due to it. The number of the infections and deaths has been still skyrocketing. Fear of this pandemic has spread all over the world, negatively impacting global transportation and the economy.

I think we are in the second outbreak of COVID-19, not keeping it under control any more, the current situation could still lead to “over-shooting,” a nationwide explosive surge in infections. It is unclear when and how the spread of this coronavirus will cease, and it is said that it will be a year or never before a vaccine can be developed.

We have to protect ourselves medically. Avoid the “three Cs” —closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places with many people nearby and close-contact setting in which close-range conversations take place—where clusters of COVID-19 cases tend to be found. Never forget to wash your hands before and after having meals or using the bathroom, or after returning home from school or from any other place. Wear a medical face mask when you come to school and go home, as well as at any time that you use a train or bus. It is very important for all of us—you and your families, my fellow teachers and myself—not to get infected with COVID-19. It is also important for us to be wise enough to avoid discrimination and prejudice.

Second, Hans Rosling writes in his book Factfulness that “Societies and cultures are not like rocks, unchanging and unchangeable. They move.” “... societies and cultures move ----- often much faster,” because of “... the spread of the Internet, smartphones, and social media,” He also writes, “What you learn about the world at school will become outdated within 10 or 20 years of graduating. So we must find ways to update adults’ knowledge too.” As I often tell you, we live in an age of uncertainty. We don’t know what will happen in the next 10 or 20 years. That’s why we should be lifelong learners. Don’t take only dark views of your lives. There may be many more chances to leave your marks and achievements in this age than in times when humans lived in surroundings that didn’t change much. We don’t have time to spend complaining about the age that we live in. Enjoy changes in our society. Take on as many new challenges as you can. Life should be full of adventures. Be ambitious, boys and girls.

Today, I talked about two things: first, that you should protect yourselves from COVID-19, second, that you should be lifelong learners.

One more thing, to the twelfth graders, I know how hard you have been working. Believe in yourselves. The possibilities for you are infinite. Don't be afraid to set high goals for yourselves. You don't regret what you have done, you regret what you haven't chosen to do. AD ALTA. Aim high, boys and girls.

In closing, I would like to offer you all my best wishes.

Thank you very much.

545 words

令和2年度 2学期終業式式辞

Everyone, I would like to talk about two things at the end of the second trimester, 2020.

First, I would like to express my sympathies to the families and loved ones of those who have died due to COVID-19. The outbreak of the novel coronavirus has concerned all of us during these past ten months. We have seen very many people worldwide infected with COVID-19—and more than one and a half million deaths due to it. The number of the infections and deaths has continued to skyrocket. Fear of this pandemic has spread all over the world, negatively impacting global transportation and the economy. As you know, we are in the third outbreak of COVID-19, more than 3,000 Japanese have died, the spread has not been kept under control, and the current situation could still lead to “over-shooting,” a nationwide explosive surge in infections. Under such conditions, whether we should continue our educational activities normally or not is not clear anymore. It is unclear when and how the spread of this coronavirus will cease, and a certain newspaper says that it will be in April, of the year 2022, before most of us will have received vaccinations. We need to protect ourselves medically. Avoid the “three Cs” —closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places in which large numbers of people have congregated, and close-contact settings in which close-range conversations take place—where clusters of COVID-19 cases tend to arise. Wear a medical facemask when you come to school and go home, as well as at any other time that you use a train or bus. It is very important for all of us—you and your families, my fellow teachers and myself—not to get infected with COVID-19. It is also important for us to be wise enough to avoid discrimination and prejudice regarding the disease.

Second, on the 16th of January, 2020, I attended, by invitation, the *Utakai-hajime* (Annual New Year’s Poetry Reading) in the *Matsu-no-ma* (Pine Room) of the Imperial Palace. On the 28th of the same month, I was commended for contributions as a teacher by the Minister of Education and was granted, with others, an audience with Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. This was only possible because I was the principal of Aoyama High School, and it gave me great happiness. The *Utakai-hajime* was broadcast nationwide, and the tip of my head was just visible on air for a very short period when a cameraman shot members of the Imperial family. Wow, great, isn’t it? I’m still basking in the afterglow of that event. Actually, we were sailing along smoothly this year until the end of January. We were supposed to have the 80th Anniversary Ceremony of our school in November. The year 2020 would have been a most wonderful year for all of us, you and your guardians, and my fellow teachers. Protecting you and teachers from COVID-19 infection while maintaining educational activities will certainly be far

from easy. The threat of the disease has, however, provided an important impetus toward improving our ICT capacity and instituting online teaching, and the efforts of our highly motivated teachers have made it possible to accomplish much in this area. During the first four days of the next trimester, you will have an opening ceremony and some lessons online. Despite all the difficulties which must surely still lie ahead, I believe it will be possible to maintain the high Aoyama High School standards while creating valuable new traditions for the future.

Today I have talked about two things; first, we have been suffering from the surges of COVID-19 and we have to protect ourselves, and, second, despite all the difficulties, I believe it will be possible to maintain the high Aoyama High School standards.

And one more thing, to twelfth graders, there are just 23 days to go before the New University Examination, and you need to concentrate on your studies more than ever. Do what you can do today for the sake of your own futures. After the Examination, your focus will shift to the secondary examinations for individual universities. You will have plenty of time, almost forty days, before taking them. Don't be afraid to set high goals for yourselves. I am sure that you will be able to make it. *Ad alta!* Aim high!

Now, to everyone, you may at times feel in low spirits. There will surely be hardships and, perhaps, bitter experiences, especially during this surge of the novel coronavirus. When it is hard striving to solve your problems all by yourselves, please don't hesitate to talk to your teachers, or to the School Counselor, or to me.

In closing my speech, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I do hope the year 2021 will be a more peaceful one for people all over the world.

Thank you very much.

817 words

令和2年度 3学期始業式式辞

We have seen the old year out. We have welcomed in the New Year, 2021, Reiwa 3. It is the 81st year of our school. This year is supposed to be an Olympic year. I know many of you look forward to watching exciting matches, thrilling races, and excellent performances. However, many of you have been wondering whether the Games will be held or not due to the surges in COVID-19. Nobody knows for sure, but I do hope the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games this year, in the year of 2021, will be held and will be successful.

During this winter vacation, you have been busy doing many things, especially the twelfth graders, who are preparing for the New University Examination. You have probably had enough time for enjoying good food or having a good time with your friends and families. We have been forced to accept so called new ways of living. Be patient. Please concentrate on your studies for a bit more. This year, I visited Anamori-Inari Shrine, which is close to Haneda Airport, as I have done for almost four decades, but I didn't ask them for a new amulet since I didn't want to get close to anyone there. I also went to Aso Shrine, which is near my home and looked after by just one priest alone. I asked him for an amulet, and I prayed that the twelfth graders might achieve their dreams. I prayed that other students would enjoy their school lives. And I also prayed that none of you get infected with the notorious virus.

Everyone, I would like to talk about two things today at the starting point of the third trimester.

First, in an age of uncertainty, it is essential for everyone to keep on learning. I want you to be life-long learners. What you learn at school may be outdated within a decade or so. That's why recurrent education is regarded as being very important. I hope you will continue to learn, with high aims of making our society better through your lives. I don't think it is right that you stop learning after graduating from a high school or university. Learning always offers sufficient stimulation to your curiosity, which may help you change your lives for the better, and our society for the better. I hope you will be able to have fun learning new things. You should accept as many new things as you can. Don't shun them. I hope you will always enjoy changes. You may have many more chances to leave your marks and achievements in this age of uncertainty rather than in an age of an unchanging and unchanged society. I do hope you will come to make important contributions to our society.

Second, and last, since the government has lowered the voting age, some of you will have a chance to vote in the House of Representatives election this year. I hope all of you who will have gained the right to vote will go to the polls. Voting is one of the most important rights guaranteed to us under the Constitution, and it is also a civic duty. I have a great interest in the voting rate among the young, ages 18 and 19. The House of Representatives election will be a very good chance for you to think about some of the political issues we face in our society today. I think we should all take an interest in political issues in order to try to help make our society better. It is essential for you to have critical ways of thinking; to compare campaign promises, and to learn about candidates and their political parties. It is you who can change the world.

Today I have spoken about two things: first, that you should become life-long learners, and, second, that you should take an interest in political issues.

One last thing to the twelfth graders, who are going to take New University Examination within two weeks. Believe in yourselves. I'm sure you will be able to make it. Don't be afraid to set high goals for yourselves. The possibilities for you are infinite. Aim high!

In closing my speech, as I have told you many times, I hope all of you are gentle and kind to one another, not ignoring your friends, and not speaking ill of them. Every student deserves respect. And as I have told you many times, it takes only a moment to destroy a good relationship, but it takes very long time to become reconciled with one another. Help each other. Respect your friends. And work together toward achieving your dreams. There is always hope to be found in the hardships of life. Ad alta!

Thank you very much.

794 words

令和2年度 卒業式式辞

73rd Commencement Tuesday, March 16th, 2021

I would first like to say a few words to our new graduates at this, the 73rd commencement of Aoyama High School.

Three years have passed since you began your studies at this highly selective and historically important Metropolitan High School. There must be countless things that have concerned and interested you during these years.

Three years ago, all of you were still junior high school students. And now you are already soon-to-be adults who have, to some extent, gained intellectual strength, judgment, and powers of expression. That makes me very happy.

Most of you already have the right to vote. There will be a Metropolitan Assembly election on July 4th, and the House of Representatives election by the end of September. Go to the polls, everyone. You will be young adults soon, and that means you ought to be able to show individual responsibility. I do hope you become highly responsible adults whose moderation in behavior will be an excellent model for others. And I do hope you will come to make important contributions to our society.

There were many things that seemed especially noteworthy during these past three years.

In 2018, we suffered from many natural disasters, including heavy rains on Kyushu Island and in the Chūgoku district, and a huge earthquake in Hokkaido. People there still are striving to restore the lives that they had been living before. We also witnessed a good thing too, however. Professor Tasuku Honjo, of the University of Kyoto, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He discovered a substance which apparently is a protein that operates as a brake on the immune system, and this has opened a way for cancer immunotherapy. That is wonderful news for the human race.

And, in 2019, we suffered from a continuing series of natural disasters, including Typhoon Faxai, which caused a blackout for many days in a large part of Chiba Prefecture, and Typhoon Hagibis, which caused many floods and took more than 90 lives from their beloved families. On the 31st of October, Okinawa's symbol, Shuri Castle, burnt down. It has been a symbol of the unique culture and traditions of Okinawa. Fortunately, we have also witnessed a number of very good things, one of which was the visit by Pope Francis to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was the second time for a Pontiff to visit our country. Another good thing was the

enthronement ceremony of His Majesty, Emperor Naruhito. A new era has begun. There are expectations that Emperor Naruhito, the first emperor with a college degree who has also studied abroad, will, together with Empress Masako, internationalize the imperial household. On the 21st of December, when the Opening Ceremony for the New National Stadium was held, I attended together with our students, and I believe we were able, in collaboration with regional organizations, to help make the most of the opportunities offered by the coming Games.

In 2020, on the 16th of January, I attended, by invitation, the Utakai hajime (Annual New Year's Poetry Reading) in the Matsu-no-ma (Pine Room) of the Imperial Palace. On the 28th of the same month, I was commended for contributions as a teacher by the Minister of Education and was granted, with others, an audience with Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. This was only possible because I was the principal of Aoyama High School, and it gave me great happiness.

Then, in March, the government declared a state of emergency. We were forced to lockdown our school for nearly three months. We have had to cancel or postpone our March school trip, the Sports Day in June, the *Gaien-sai* Festival in August, and the 80th Anniversary Ceremony in November. Our students had also been looking forward to seeing Olympic track-and-field events at the new National Stadium. These unfortunate reversals have been especially disappointing to you, your guardians, and my fellow teachers. We have also been going through another state of emergency period since January this year.

Protecting you and our teachers from COVID-19 infection while maintaining educational activities has certainly been far from easy. The threat of the disease has, however, provided an important impetus toward improving our ICT capacity and instituting online teaching, and the efforts of our highly motivated teachers, along with volunteer work by alumni and alumnae, have made it possible to accomplish much in this area.

It is hard to imagine how our society might change in the next ten years. That's why you all should be lifelong learners. I think we learn because we want to be happier. And to stop learning means to stop becoming happier. If you stop learning, you will not be able to adapt yourself to changes in our society. If you can't be happy yourself, you won't be able to make our society better. Alber Einstein said, "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything." In this age of uncertainty, you should remember that there will be many chances to leave your marks and to make

achievements that will change our society for the better.

Some of you will begin studies at a university and others will prepare for another try for admission next year. And some of you may have to move to different areas. You may feel depressed to discover that some people you meet are better than you in certain fields. But communicating with those people will help you mature and make you stronger and wiser. Working together creates strength.

Japan has little in the way of natural resources. Our nation's greatest treasure is its citizenry. You are part of that great treasure. Each of you is irreplaceable. Believe in yourselves. The possibilities for you are infinite. *Ad alta*. Aim high, everyone!

Thank you very much. 944 words

第73回卒業証書授与式校長式辞

みなさんが、都立高校の中でも難関であり、歴史もある、本校で学び始めてから3年が経ちました。この3年間、興味や関心をもった出来事が数えきれないくらいあったことと思います。

3年前、みなさんはまだ中学生でした。それが今、思考力・判断力・表現力を一定程度身に付けて、間もなく成人を迎えるまでに成長しました。このことをたいへん喜ばしく思います。

今、みなさんの大半が選挙権を持っています。今年7月4日には都議会議員選挙、9月の終わりまでには衆議院議員選挙があります。みなさんにはぜひ投票に行ってほしいと思います。皆さんは間もなく成人になりますが、それは、みなさん一人一人が大人の責務を果たせるということに外なりません。みなさんの節度ある行動が他者にとって優れた手本となるよう、強い責任感をもつ人になってほしいと切に願います。また、社会に重要な貢献ができるようになってほしいとも期待します。

これまでの3年間、特筆すべきことがたくさんありました。

2018年（平成30年）、九州と中国地方での豪雨や北海道での大地震などの自然災害が多く発生しました。現地の人たちは、以前の生活を取り戻そうと、今なお苦労しています。しかし、よいこともありました。京都大学の本庶佑教授がノーベル医学生理学賞を受賞しました。本庶教授は、免疫システムにブレーキをかけるはたらきをする物質であるタンパク質の一種を発見しましたが、これにより、癌の免疫療法に道が拓かれました。人類にとってたいへん素晴らしい成果です。

2019年（平成31年／令和元年）も、立て続けに自然災害に見舞われました。台風15号は、千葉県の広い範囲に何日間も停電をもたらし、台風19号は、多くの洪水を引き起こし、90名を超える人の尊い命を奪いました。10月31日には、沖縄の首里城が焼け落ちました。首里城は、沖縄の独自の文化と伝統のシンボルでした。一方幸いなことに、多くのよい出来事もありました。その一つは、フランシスコ教皇が広島と長崎を訪問したことです。教皇の来日は、史上2度目のことです。もう一つは、天皇陛下の即位の式典があったことです。新しい令和の時代が始まりました。天皇陛下は、修士の称号をもつ初めての天皇で、海外での勉学の経験もあり、皇后陛下と共に皇室の国際化が期待されています。12月21日には、新国立競技場のオープニングセレモニーが開かれました。私も生徒のみなさんと一緒に参加しました。地域の諸団体と協力して、来るべきオリンピックによって与えられた好機を最大限生かすことができたと思います。

2020年（令和2年）1月16日、私は皇居松の間で行われた歌会始に招かれました。また、同月28日には、文部科学大臣表彰を受賞し、他の受賞者と共に天皇皇后両陛下に拝謁しました。これは、青山高校の校長だからこそ可能であったことであり、望外の喜びでした。

そして3月、政府が緊急事態を宣言しました。学校は3か月近く臨時休業を強いられました。3月の修学旅行、6月の体育祭、8月の外苑祭、そして11月の80周年記念式典を中止や延期せざるを得ませんでした。また、新国立競技場でのオリンピック陸上競技観戦も楽しみにしていたのに実現しませんでした。こうして残念にも期待と真逆の結果になったことは、生徒のみなさん、保護者の皆様、教職員にとってまったく残念なものでした。今年に入っても、1月、2月には2度目の緊急事態を経験することになりました。

生徒のみなさんと先生方をコロナウイルス感染症から守りながら教育活動を維持することは、まったくもって容易なことではありません。しかしながら、感染症の脅威によって、ICTの設備増強やオンライン授業推進の重要なきっかけがもたらされ、また、卒業生によるボランティア支援を得ながら、極めて熱意のある先生方の努力によって、この分野では大きな成果を上げることができました。

これから先の10年で社会がどのように変化するか予測することは難しいと思います。だからこそ、生涯学び続ける人になるべきなのです。人はより幸せになりたいがために学ぶのだと思います。したがって、学ぶことを止めてしまうのは、幸せになることを放棄するに等しいと思います。学ばなければ、社会の変化に適応することができません。自分自身が幸せになれば、社会をよりよくすることもできません。不確実な時代にあって、そういう時代だからこそむしろ、社会をよりよくすることにつながる自分の足跡や功績を残すチャンスに恵まれていることを心にとめておいてください。

みなさんの中には、大学で学び始める人もいるでしょう。来年の捲土重来に向けて準備する人もいるでしょう。また、都外へ出たりこれまでと異なる環境で生活しなければならない人もいるでしょう。そうした中で、みなさんは自分よりも優秀な人に出会い、意気消沈することもあるかもしれません。しかし、そういう人たちと触れ合うことで、人はより成長し、より強く、より賢くなるものです。人は協力することで、お互いの力をより強くすることができるのです。

日本には天然資源がほとんどありません。我が国の最大の財産は人です。みなさんも、そうした優れた宝の大切な一部なのです。一人一人が社会を支えていく、かけがえのない存在なのです。自分自身の価値を信じてください。みなさんの可能性は無限です。アド・アルタ。卒業後も高い目標をもって過ごしてください。

令和2年度 修了式式辞

On 16th of this month, we had the 73rd commencement of our school. We celebrated 313 of our new graduates, with their guardians, my fellow teachers, and school staff. They had been forced to give up their March school trip, the Sports Day in June, and the Gaiensai Festival in August, just as you have been. I'm truly sorry, both for them and for you.

Of the 73rd graduates, more than 100 students passed entrance exams for national or municipal universities, including three who were accepted to the University of Tokyo, eleven to Hitotsubashi University, seven to the Tokyo Institute of Technology, one to the School of Medicine of the University of Shinshu, and 16 to the Universities of Hokkaido, Tohoku, and Osaka. Further, other students were accepted to private universities known to be highly selective, including Waseda University, Keio University, Sophia University, and Tokyo University of Science. They did a great job. But it is not so important for you just to succeed in passing entrance examinations for highly selective universities. You are expected to come to make important contributions to our society in the future, and you should have a strong will to study further, in your future education, what interests you most. I would like you all to aim high.

I would like to talk about two things today at the end of the 2020 school year.

First, we have gone through the state of emergency two times since March of 2020. Everything has changed a lot. We have been struggling to restore the lives that we had been living before. That seems, however, quite difficult now. Some medical experts say that it will take a year or longer before this pandemic will cease. But many of you may wonder if we will actually be able to win this fight against COVID-19 or not. So far it seems that we have learned many things about the notorious infectious disease, but there are still many questions left unanswered. We hope that vaccines will protect us from infection, or at least make our bodies robust against the virus. Making the situation even more complex, however, is the fact that a number of mutant strains have originated in such countries as the U.K., South Africa, and Brazil. They have been reported to have spread around the world, and it is still uncertain as to how effectively the vaccines can be expected to work against all the various strains. During the past 13 months since February of 2020, all we have been able to do to protect ourselves from COVID-19 has been washing our hands, wearing a surgical face mask, and observing social-distancing. Some of you may insist that we should try to maintain our educational activities as normally as possible, while others may caution that we should avoid the “three Cs” — closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places in which large numbers of people have congregated, and close-contact settings in which close-range conversations take place — where clusters of COVID-19 cases tend to arise. As you know, we are in the third outbreak of COVID-19, more than nearly 9,000 Japanese have died,

the spread has not been kept under control, and the current situation could still lead to “over-shooting,” a fourth nationwide explosive surge in infections. Under such conditions, we need to protect ourselves medically. It is very important for all of us—you and your families, my fellow teachers and myself—not to get infected with COVID-19. It is also important for us to be wise enough to avoid discrimination and prejudice regarding the disease. We don’t have time to spend complaining about the age that we live in. Everything that surrounds us is in constant transition. We ought to be able to enjoy changes in our society. Take on as many new challenges as you can. If you can’t adapt yourselves to changes, you will never be happy. And you should be lifelong learners, so as to be able to adapt yourselves to changes in our society.

Second, not a few good people are sometimes burdened with diseases, handicaps, or other misfortunes. But every human being hopes to be happy, and everyone has the right to be happy. Let’s think about people, including children, who are handicapped or who have serious diseases. Things must be very difficult for them. They must have experienced a lot of suffering. Think about them. They are part of our society. We need to consider how we treat one another — and to remember that we should be considerate toward others in our communities. Everyone deserves respect. That’s why here at our school diversity among students should be respected. You all have quite different backgrounds, living environments, and personalities. You should respect your friends and people around you. Prejudice comes from ignorance. And I believe it is important to have personal contact with others who are different from you. This will help liberate you from the chains of ignorance. I hope our society might become one in which everyone is respected and has the opportunity to try to do what he or she wants to do for his or her own personal purposes. Let’s work together to help make our society better.

Today I have told you two things: first, that you should be lifelong learners and, second, that you should respect one another.

In closing, you may sometimes feel in low spirits, and if it is hard striving to solve your problems all by yourselves, please talk to your friends, family, teachers, the School Counselor, or me. We will always try our best to give you useful advice, and we will always be at your side.

I would also like to offer you all my best wishes. I look forward to seeing you on the first day of new school year this coming April.

Thank you very much. 974 words