

Head Strategy & Communication Remarks St. Francis High School Speech and Prize Giving Day 19 September 2025

- Programme Director
- The Head Teacher
- Teachers and Staff
- Distinguished Guests
- Students
- Parents
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Good Morning

INTRODUCTION

1. It is a true privilege to be here with you today, to share in this special occasion where we celebrate the hard work, dedication, and achievements of these bright young minds. I want to extend a huge congratulations to all the prize winners, you are a testament to what is possible when you commit yourself to your goals. Your hard work, discipline, and dedication have paid off, and you are an inspiration to us all. And to every single student here today, whether you are

receiving an award or not, you deserve to be proud of the effort you have put in this year.

THEME

1. Programme director, the theme for today is '**In Pursuit of Excellence: Dream. Dare. Do.**' These three words are more than just a catchy phrase; they are a roadmap for your future. They are a call to action, a reminder that the life you want to build starts right here, right now, with the choices you make.
2. Allow me to dig deep into the theme of the day, I will break down the components of the theme into three items.

Dream: The Starting Point of All Success

3. Everything you see around you the buildings, the technology, the teachers, the very clothes you are wearing started with a dream. Someone, somewhere, dared to imagine something different, something better.
4. Right now, as you sit in these chairs, you hold the power to dream. What do you want to be? A doctor, an engineer, a teacher, an artist, an economist, an accountant, a farmer, a business owner? Maybe you have not figured it out yet, and that is perfectly okay. The important thing is to allow yourself to dream. Do not let anyone tell you your dreams are too big, too small, or too impossible. Your dreams are yours alone, and they are the fuel that will power your journey.
5. In Eswatini, we have a unique identity and a rich culture. Your dreams can be a force for positive change in our country. Maybe you will

dream of a better healthcare system, a more sustainable economic growth, or a new way to share our beautiful Swazi stories with the world. The future of this country rests on your shoulders, and it begins with your dreams.

Dare: Taking a Leap of Faith

6. A dream is just a thought unless you dare to act on it. Daring means stepping outside of your comfort zone. It means taking risks, even when you are afraid of failing.
7. I know that right now, for many of you, especially for the completing students, the biggest dare is the final exam. These exams can feel like a monster, a single moment that determines your future. But let me tell you, they are not. They are just one step on a very long and exciting path. The real dare is to face them with courage. It is daring to ask for help when you do not understand a concept. It is daring to study that extra hour when your friends are out having fun.
8. You will also have to dare to face your weaknesses. Everyone has them, yes, even the most successful people you know. Your weaknesses are not something to be ashamed of, they are simply areas for growth. Maybe you struggle with public speaking, or maybe mathematics is not your strong suit. The dare is to acknowledge it and then work on it. Take a public speaking course, join a debate club, find a tutor. Daring to face your weaknesses is one of the bravest things you can do.
9. At the same time, dare to lean into your strengths. What are you good at? What do you love to do? If you are a natural leader, dare to take on a leadership role. If you are a gifted artist, dare to share your work

with the world. Your strengths are your greatest assets, and they are what make you unique.

Do: The Relentless Pursuit of Your Goals

10. This is where the magic happens. Dreaming and daring are essential, but without action, they are just ideas. **'Do'** is the commitment to show up every single day, to put in the hard work, even when you do not feel like it.
11. For those of you writing your final external exams, your 'do' right now is to study. Create a schedule, find a study group, and get plenty of rest. Do not be overwhelmed by the bigger picture, focus on one subject, one chapter, one page at a time. This is your moment to prove to yourself what you are capable of.
12. For everyone here, your 'do' is also about preparing for the real world. This is your chance to start building skills that go beyond the classroom. Learn to manage your time, to communicate effectively, to work in a team. These are the skills that employers and universities are looking for, and they are the skills that will serve you for the rest of your life.
13. Remember, the real world and tertiary education are not just about textbooks and lectures. They are about problem-solving, creativity, and resilience. Embrace these next steps with an open mind. Be a student of life and never stop learning.
14. So, as I leave this hall today, I want to leave you with a challenge:
 - **Dream** with all your heart. Do not limit yourself.
 - **Dare** to be different. Dare to face your fears.

- **Do** the work. Because the road to excellence is paved with action.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS WRITING EXAMS

15. For those of you preparing for your final external exams, I know the next few months, weeks, days, hours can feel overwhelming. This is a crucial time, but remember, it is also a time for you to shine. My first piece of advice is to create a plan. Do not just study when you feel like it. Sit down and create a realistic study schedule, breaking down each subject into manageable sections. Focusing on one topic at a time will make the entire process feel less intimidating. As you prepare, remember to take care of yourself. Your brain is your most important tool, so treat it well. Get enough sleep, eat healthy foods, and take short breaks to rest and recharge. A tired mind cannot learn effectively.
16. Also, do not be afraid to ask for help. If you are struggling with a particular subject, talk to your teachers, classmates, or a tutor. There is no shame in seeking help. In fact, it shows great maturity and a commitment to your own success. Finally, believe in yourself. You have spent years building a foundation of knowledge. Trust in your abilities and the work you have put in. Go into your exams with confidence, knowing you have done everything you can to prepare.
17. The piece of advice that I have just shared holds for you all as students, so for those in junior classes take this advice and use it as a weapon pave your way to your success.

Conclusion

18. As I step down, to our prize winners, congratulations, to every student, let today be your starting line. Let your Dreams be the blueprints for a new Eswatini. Have the courage to Dare to build, and the discipline to Do the daily work that excellence demands. The future rests in your hands, go forth and create it.

I Thank You ALL!