



## message to GRADUATES



Dear Graduates

**Congratulations, you have already achieved a lot academically, emotionally, socially and your personalities have been established.**

Remember the first time you set foot in this school as a child? An amazing transformation in just 7 years, the extent of which will never be repeated, in such a short time in your lives. The values and principles you have been taught by your esteemed teachers are priceless. The skills and tools you earned deservedly, in exchanging ideas at School, often fighting your corner in negotiating circumstances, compromising when necessary and the stresses you have overcome are your vital functions. The saying of one of my early ES teachers lingers in my mind - "know thy self".

Crucially, you have achieved this Socratic principle - your strengths and weaknesses, both of which we all share, are well known to you by now. You have laid down strong foundations so that others can follow by your example in the years to come. I promise, life does not get any more difficult than what you have gone through. Societal and family norms and behaviours are no different, and pursuing your career paths will still be along the same lines. You know how to handle most situations. Maintain your integrity, honesty, team work and fairness to fellow people, values well taught at the ES. Do sustain your dedication to achieve at the best of your capacity, but never forget to allow time for yourself, friends and family. **Enjoy the summer and be proud of yourself for graduating from an outstanding school - you know you are all natural survivors!**

Professor V.G. Hadjianastassiou

*Professor V.G. Hadjianastassiou graduated (BMBCh (Oxon)) from the Medical School of the University of Oxford, where he also completed his doctoral thesis (DM (Oxon)) in abdominal aortic aneurysms.*

*He holds the specialties of General Surgery (FRCS (Gen)) and Vascular Surgery (FEBS (Vasc)), after completing Specialist Surgical Training (CCT) at the Oxford and London Deaneries in the United Kingdom. From 2007 till the end of 2010 he worked as Consultant Surgeon at Guy's & St. Thomas', Great Ormond Street and King's College Hospitals in London and as a Senior Lecturer at the Medical School of King's College London. After spending 20 years in the UK he returned to Cyprus in 2011 as the founding Clinical Director of the Organ Transplant Centre in Cyprus.*

*He is an examiner (FEBS(Transplant) for the European Diploma of Transplant Surgery (UEMS & the European Board of Surgery, Division of Transplantation) and he is currently serving as the Treasurer on the Executive Board of the Division (2017-2021).*

*Since September 2013 he has also been serving as an examiner of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (for the MRCS exam). He has had a significant number of publications and he has given numerous lectures in international meetings.*

*Among the innovations he introduced in Cyprus is carotid endarterectomy under local anaesthesia, the first fenestrated endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, the first laparoscopic nephrectomy for living kidney donors, the first simultaneous pancreas and kidney transplantation and the first kidney transplant from an incompatible blood group.*

*Since November 2013 he has been serving as Clinical Professor of Surgery of the University of Nicosia Medical School.*

