

Welcome
Russell Tevie
President, Class of 2020

Hello and welcome Ms. Anderson, guests, faculty and staff, family, friends, and fellow graduates.

It's that time of the year, when we must come together to celebrate our graduating class. It's certainly not the graduation we all hoped for or thought we were going to have, but I am thankful that we are all able to come together to celebrate our achievements on this fine day.

During this period, I have had a lot of time to think and reflect on my life and journey through Cheshire Academy. It really did take countless FaceTime calls, multiple Zoom classes, and extreme boredom to make me appreciate how much more exciting my life was when I was a boarding student at Cheshire Academy. I missed the walks to the dining hall, I missed running to class early in the morning to avoid the tardy, I missed singing songs on the bus and getting hyped before a soccer game, I missed lounging in the community forum with my friends before class, I missed history class, I missed everything about Cheshire Academy. It really made me thankful for this community I have at CA because we do not know the true value of our moments until they have undergone the test of memory.

Learn to enjoy every minute of your life and be the best version of yourself. During these times it has also become more clear to me that the world does need more Cheshire Academy graduates. I think we can all agree the world is getting scarier every day, but let's bring light to areas where darkness reigns. We need students who have been instilled with the values of Cheshire Academy, students who live and abide by the Eight Pillars of Bowden. For those who will be new to our community soon, welcome to Cheshire Academy, a place where we treat people with fairness and respect, a place where we take responsibility for our actions, a place with a caring community, where there is no lack of civility, where we are proud of where we come from and where we value trustworthiness. Here at Cheshire Academy, we celebrate our success and learn from our failures.

I've never failed so much like I've failed at Cheshire Academy, but here I am standing, giving you a speech, classifying myself as a pretty accomplished student. Who would've thought that in order to

succeed, you would have to fail. I believe that this graduating class epitomizes the idea of what it means to never give up even in the face of adversity.

Think about the late nights you spent studying for your tests, or the extra run you took around the track to get your fitness up before your game. We made it, you have proved everyone who ever doubted you wrong. We are, at least in my opinion, the most unique class to ever graduate from Cheshire Academy. I implore you to go out into the world and be great. Everywhere you go remember your time at Cheshire Academy, the lessons you learned here, and the people you've met. Let's charge each other to keep in touch with one another as we go our different ways. I ask for God's guidance for all of you and I wish you the best in the near future.

Thank you to all the staff of Cheshire Academy who have guided us to get to this day, to all our families and friends, and to all of you for electing me as class president to represent you. This path we have all taken together has connected us in ways that aren't comprehensible to the human eye but is, however, linked by our spirits and hearts. Cheshire Academy, It's been a hell of a ride. Be safe during these tough times. Class of 2020, I salute you. Thank you for this great experience.