



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH

PGDE Graduation Ceremony 2021
Message of Appreciation - English Class Representative
Speaker: Simone KIN

26 June 2021

Good Afternoon, Our USJ Rector, Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan, our Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Education, Professor Elisa Monteiro, Professors, my Fellow Students and guests,

I'm honored to be able to represent our cohort as we celebrate today. My name is Simone. I was born and raised in South Africa and my journey in teaching started in 2005 at a secondary girls' school in Johannesburg. In 2008, I decided to 'find my roots' and move to Asia. I worked in Mainland China as an English teacher for 9 years before moving to Macau in 2017. Even though I've worked in the field of education for sixteen years, no two contexts are the same, and this is what motivated me to study further, specifically, the PGDE in Primary Education.

I'd first like to take this opportunity to thank all who have made reaching our goal today possible.

Rev Professor Stephen Morgan and Professor Elisa Monteiro for their educational leadership, and overseeing our programme. Your leadership decisions have built a culture of educational research and professionalism and have played an important role in the development of education in Macau by facilitating educational reform in recent years. We have been privileged to be impacted by your leadership.

Professor Isabel Tchiang - our PGDE coordinator who organised and managed our course, and supported us throughout the year by seeking our feedback - thank you for your dedication - it made the year run smoothly and made it more manageable for us all.

Ms Phoebe Cao, the teaching practicum coordinator - thank you for making the completion of our practicums possible by liaising with schools and organising the placements, as well as coordinating with group members and IT for our presentations.

To our USJ supervisors, thank you for your valuable feedback, for taking time to have conversations and mentor us through our practicums. This dialogue has had an impact on us as teachers who are starting out in the field of primary education.



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH

To our lecturers near and far, your expertise and sharing from your experiences and research has given us a firm foundation and set us off on the right foot. Whether face-to-face or online, we've gained a great deal from our classes. We appreciate your objective views, your encouragement and patience. You pushed us to become more conscious of our teaching skills and to continue to be lifelong learners. You gave us many learning opportunities and we made new relationships throughout the year.

To the PGDE graduates - you've made it. Well done! You've managed to do your assignments, group work, presentations, reflections and much more - all while working in some form. You are beginning your career in primary education on a solid foundation.

Experiencing social transition first hand as a middle school student growing up in South Africa taught me the importance of equal opportunities and education for all. Seeing how a school education had the potential to redirect a young person's life and open doors for them that would not be open without it, was inspiring. It was this desire to affect change for the better that drew me to education. As Nelson Mandela once wrote: 'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.'

Going forward, *you* now have an opportunity to have a positive impact in your classrooms and therefore build the future. May we always enjoy teaching in whatever form, remain passionate about education and *even* on the toughest days, may we not lose hope. May we develop endurance and go from strength to strength.

I wish you every success in the future! Thank you.