

Speech by Mrs Karen Schandy, Chair of the Board of Governors

Good morning to all of you

It is so nice to be here at this assembly on this very special day of celebration of the 110th anniversary of our School.

110 years ... that's a lot of time! Imagine that 1908 when the School was founded, there was no monument of Artigas at Plaza Independencia, a third of the population had not been born in Uruguay but were from abroad, and, Carrasco was not even in the city but in the outskirts of Montevideo. Not many years ago, in the 1980's I remember the unpaved roads around the School, which were really muddy when it was raining, and the students coming to school in their bicycles got stuck in the puddles.

So many things have passed since the School opened its doors and, as Mr Rosevear mentioned, had to move several times as the space and premises needed expanding.

Some days ago, a well-known newspaper of the city celebrated its 100th anniversary and its authorities referred to all the things that happened in so many years.

But, we are a School and education moves so fast that 110 years mean a lot. Being a School we do not write events as in the newspaper but we educate, education is knowledge which leads to wisdom. 110 years of education of so many generations. I can see some students here whose great grandparents came to School, imagine the parents of your grandparents coming to School as you do today.

It is very good to know the history of the School, to get amazed when seeing pictures of the old buildings, the uniform, what the girls used for sports, the teachers, the classrooms. However, all these things have changed; have been transformed encompassing the times and modernisation, so has education.

We have to remember the past to live the present and prepare for the future. We thank those who had the vision of founding the School with the *“object of giving children a complete education, both intellectual and moral, based upon the ideas and principles of the best schools in the British Isles”*.

If you have, the opportunity to read the speech of Mrs Florence Carr Jackson on the inauguration of the School in 1908 you will realise that it could perfectly be presented today. Nevertheless, many many things have changed, but what remains is the vision and mission, the School Spirit. From our founders to the leaders of today from Mrs Carr Jackson and Mr Jones to the Principal, Heads and staff of today, this spinal cord or backbone has remained the same. Always striving to be at the vanguard of education with programmes, premises and staff who know that the more they demand and push their students to endeavour for excellence the more they get.

Shakespeare in *The Tempest* invented the phrase “what is past is prologue”. When at School in Mr Hobson's literature class I really did not quite understand this, but with the years and experience and “with a past” myself, I understood that the phrase cannot be more impeccable.

You should understand that in plays in the old days, there was a prologue, like in the books, where the scene was set. What has happened so far is the prologue. The setting of the scene for the future. We are always preparing for the future. What already happened was the preparation for what we are living today and the really important part is yet to come.

The **really** important part is educating you for the future and giving you the tools to be knowledgeable girls and boys, not only in what you learn but in the way you behave and present yourself in the future, as gentlemen and gentlewomen of the future.

Thank you and **enjoy the day.**