

## Otago Boys' High School - Dunedin



Von Tobias

## International Student Farewell Speech

First of all, I would like to thank Mr Hall for the opportunity to speak today. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Tobias and I am an international student.

I came here last July, 19000 kilometres from home, 19000 kilometres away from my family, my friends and basically my old life. I am very grateful and lucky to have had this opportunity to go abroad for a whole year. Every opportunity brings risks; my risk was not knowing anybody in New Zealand at all.

Coming here I wanted to play golf every day and reduce my handicap to single figures, but instead my focus shifted and I followed other opportunities like rowing and sailing. These sports I can't do at home as I live 8 hours away from the sea and 2 hours from the next big lake. Today I want to thank those who added value to my exchange experience, especially the rowing crew of the Under 17 eight who competed at Maadi Cup.

I will leave you with a quote from Maxwell Maltz, an American cosmetic surgeon and author. He said "Often the difference between a successful man and a failure is not one's better abilities or ideas, but the courage that one has to bet on his idea, to take a calculated risk, and to act." I like to think this is the path I followed during my year at Otago Boys' High School, saying 'yes' to every opportunity that popped up.

As well, I want to encourage you to say 'yes' more often and to appreciate opportunities given to you. For those of you who will be lucky enough to take part in an exchange or going to a different country, I highly recommend doing it, you will not only learn about a different land, culture and people, but mostly about yourself.

(Quelle: <https://hail.to/otago-boys-high-school/publication/TqqMhyQ/article/TvpZNMJ>)

