



Dear IB graduate,

Congratulations on your achievement! You are now a part of a worldwide community of graduates that have received IB diplomas or certificates since the foundation of the International Baccalaureate Organization in 1968.

With time, you will probably value the IB experience even more than you did when you were at school. Every year tens of thousands of IB students complain about the hard work, and a year later they realize that all that hard work was the best investment they ever made in preparation for college and a lifetime of learning.

I hope that you continue to learn, to grow, and to be involved in your community. As a citizen of the world, you can make a difference not only by being a good student or doing your job well, but also by volunteering and participating in the causes that are close to your heart.

Today the word “cosmopolitan” brings to mind a fashion magazine and an international lifestyle. The word is of Greek origin (*kosmou* and *polites*) and it means “world citizen”. The philosopher Diogenes was the first to use the phrase ‘citizen of the world’. Only by stepping outside our own familiar assumptions and becoming cosmopolitan, argued Diogenes, can we truly question and thereby better understand our own way of life. How right he was, then and now.

As you move on in life, I hope that you continue to challenge yourself and your assumptions. Someone once said the purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one. I wish you the best of luck in this lifelong endeavour.

During the next year we shall be creating an IB Association to bring together different members of the IB community. We are close to setting up a pilot project and will announce the next steps on our web site [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org). Please keep in touch!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Walker', written in a cursive style.

George Walker  
Director general