THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL GRADUATION 2017

Our Year 13 students had a vision of the graduation that they wanted. They were willing and able to work very hard to plan and create this wonderful and meaningful ceremony to celebrate the end of their years at TIPS and the beginning of a new stage of their lives. We salute them and the members of the school community who supported them in this effort. In this unique ceremony each student walked down the aisle to a song he or she had chosen and then each gave a personal speech. Ms. Lesley Easton Allen, our headmistress, opened the ceremony, supported by two former students Stefan Kroutil and Sebastian Robshaw.

Our first graduate, **Anisha Baxla**, walked down the aisle to Best Day of My Life by American Authors.

Anisha Baxla has only been at TIPS for nine months. Nervous when she first arrived, she felt welcomed by her teachers who helped her through the transition. and is both sorry and happy to be leaving.

Our second graduate was **Vitoria Ciarlini** who walked to Viva la Vida by Goldplay.

Vitoria received her diploma from Ms.Lesley and Mr. Ross. She then explained that she had arrived at TIPS three years ago during a very difficult time in her life. She thanked the teachers and classmates who helped her through this time and especially her father, who has always tried to do the best for her.

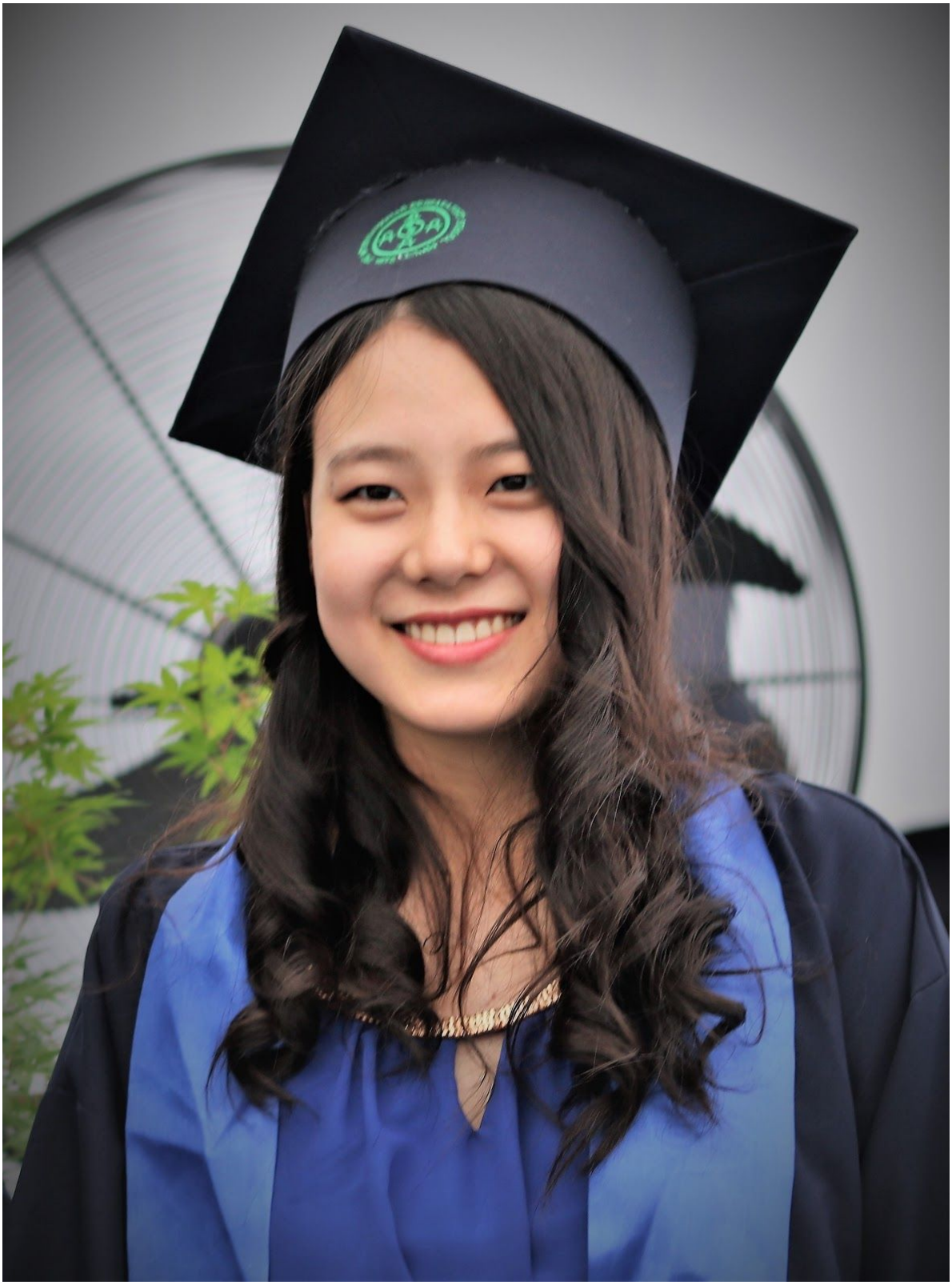
Pedro Colaco was the following graduate who walked to Jump by Kris Kross.

After receiving his diploma, Pedro seemed to be gazing down at it in awe. Yes, Pedro, it is yours. Pedro has been a TIPS student for longer than most of our graduates. He has an amazing sense of humour and recognizes that hard work is not his favourite thing. However, with the help and support of his teachers and friends, he has reached the end of the high school phase of his studies and is ready to begin a new even more challenging phase of his life.

Anna Ichino, walking to Teenage Dream by Katy Perry, was our next graduate.

Anna Ichino arrived from Japan three years ago. It was her first time out of Japan and she didn't speak English. Naturally she was nervous but was helped by the support of the teachers. Now after her studies at TIPS she will return to Japan to study education. She hopes to be welcoming and supporting of foreign students there.

Rina Ichino followed her sister to the sound of Brave by Sare Bareilles.



Rina Ichino arrived from Japan two and a half years ago. She did not speak English when she arrived. She not only went on to learn to speak the language but to study advanced subjects using it. She will also be returning to Japan to begin her university studies.

Karibu Mhangwane, walking to the sound of Devastated by Joey Badass, was next.

Karibu Mhangwane arrived at TIPS in 2014 from South Africa. Karibu is the kind of person who wants to be himself. However, he has worked to complete his studies and is now ready to continue his super cool journey into the wider world. Karibu describes himself as not always easy to work with but thanks his teachers and his parents for helping him succeed.

Yuki Ogura, walking to Nothing on You by Bruno Mars, was our following graduate.

Yuki Ogura arrived from Japan two years ago with no English. The support of his teachers and classmates has made it possible for him to advance rapidly. Now he, too, will return to Japan to continue his studies.

Jasmin Thomson chose to walk to Team by Lorde as she graduated.

Jasmin Thomson began her career at TIPS when very young and has progressed through the school until graduation. She thanks her teachers, her parents and her sister, who she is eager to rejoin in Canada.

Yuma Yano, who walked to the sound of Good Life by G-Eazy and Kehlani, was our final graduate.

Yuma Yano was nervous when she arrived from Japan but was helped and supported by her teachers and classmates. She will be returning to Japan to continue her studies.

Our graduates were thankful, happy and sometimes a bit emotional. They have been through experiences which many of us have never had to face. Starting a new school in a new country can be a daunting experience. Add a new language and the challenge moves to a different level. But they have come through with flying colours and will begin this new phase of their lives with some skills to help them along the way.

The student speeches were followed by a few words from Mr. Ross Marrow, the Head of Senior School and Ms. Pamela Van Arsdale, Associate Head.

We were also treated to a wonderful performance from Tia Logan, who sang Break the Rules. She began with a musical background which cut out somewhere along the way. Tia, with great support from the audience, continued singing a capella. Yes, she had the confidence and the talent to keep her performance on track. Congratulations, Tia for a magnificent job.

Tia was followed by Jasmin Thomson playing the guitar and singing The A Team. She also showed her talent and willingness to persevere. Thank you for this beautiful gift. Iolanda Gregolin played Reiding op. 35 first movement on the violin to great applause from the audience. The three students then joined together to sing Sweater Weather, once again to great appreciation and support from the audience. Thank you for sharing your talent and determination with us in this beautiful moment.

Ms. Lesley Easton closed the ceremony with words for each graduate. What a perfect way to show how special each one of our graduates is for the TIPS community.

The ceremony, so beautiful and meaningful, was followed by a lovely dinner, with food provided by the families of the graduates. What an amazing effort and cooperation. We thank everyone who put so much effort into making this a magical evening. May the magic continue to accompany you on your journey into life.