



SPEECH

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K.,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

**EVENT: DIAMOND JUBILEE AND PRIZE GIVING –
 LONDON COLLEGE**

VENUE: AUDITORIUM, MGI, MOKA

DATE: 09 JUNE 2026

TIME: 09 00 HOURS

Protocol

Mr Yang Jun, Director of China Cultural Centre;

Mr Terry Chan Lam, the Rector / Manager of London College;

Respected members of the Management,

Teachers and Staff members,

Distinguished Guests,

Parents,

And Dear Students.

Introduction

Good morning, and thank you for your warm welcome and for the opportunity to address you on this very special occasion.

I am delighted to join you today to celebrate:

- the **Diamond Jubilee of London College** and to honour the achievements of its students, educators, alumni, and the wider school community.
- Six decades of commitment, perseverance, service, and belief in the transformative power of education.
- A legacy of service and achievement.

You have produced educated citizens who have served or continue to serve our nation in diverse fields, both locally and internationally.

Allow me, therefore, to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire London College family on this remarkable anniversary.

My special thoughts go to those who are no longer with us to-day.

Special Congratulations

Let me extend my special congratulations, in particular, to the Grade 12 students, teachers and mentors, for winning the National Learn AI

School Innovation Challenge 2026, with your project aimed at reducing waiting times in the public service sector.

What is particularly encouraging is that your institution won second place in the competition last year and, this year, has progressed to the very top.

This demonstrates your institution's dedication to a culture of continuous improvement and excellence

I hope this success will inspire you to continue exploring, innovating, and applying your knowledge in ways that benefit our country and our people.

This is an AI initiative that I pioneered, because I want our youth to learn to use it creatively and responsibly to solve real problems affecting society.

At a time when Artificial Intelligence is transforming economies and societies around the world, Mauritius must position itself not merely as a user of technology but as a creator of solutions.

The achievement of London College is a powerful example of what our young people can accomplish when innovation is combined with purpose.

Prize Winners

I warmly congratulate all students receiving prizes today in various fields.

And as an educator myself, I want to pay my tribute to all educators who have devoted not only years, but in some cases, decades of service to this institution, shaping the lives of generations of young Mauritians.

As a former academic and Minister of Education, I am acutely aware of the demands, responsibilities, and sacrifices that teaching entails.

I therefore extend my warmest gratitude to all those whose dedication has contributed to the growth and success of London College.

I also wish to acknowledge the non-teaching staff whose contribution is often less visible but equally essential to the smooth functioning of the institution.

Every successful school is the result of a collective effort.

Tribute to the Founder

Allow me to pay tribute to the founder, the late Mr Harold Chan Lam.

It is important to recall that the journey of London College began under very challenging circumstances in 1966, in the aftermath of Cyclone “Denise”, with just around one hundred students.

From these humble and testing beginnings, it has grown into a strong and respected institution.

Indeed, it was among the pioneers in introducing agriculture at secondary level, with the establishment of its school farm in 1972, giving students valuable practical exposure.

It has also consistently promoted science, culture, sports, and social responsibility, through initiatives such as lunch donation programmes, blood donation drives, charity walks, and distribution of food supplies to charitable institutions.

Remember that the true measure of a school lies not simply in examination results but in the quality of citizens it helps to shape.

The vision of Mr Harold Chan Lam reminds us that great institutions are often built by individuals who dare to dream beyond the limitations of their time.

His commitment to educational excellence and social responsibility continues to inspire successive generations.

I also express my appreciation, in particular, to Mr Terry Chan Lam, the Rector; the management team and all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

I have no doubt that your institution will continue to uphold the values that have guided it for six decades, while embracing the opportunities and challenges of the future with confidence and determination.

Reflections and Message to Students

Allow me now to address our students directly.

There are many lessons that can be drawn from the sixty-year journey of your school.

I would like to leave you with two simple messages.

The first is: never stop learning.

We live in a world where knowledge evolves at an unprecedented pace. AI, robotics, environmental sciences, and many other fields are transforming our societies and reshaping the way we live and work.

Your education does not end with your certificates, diplomas and degrees when you leave school or university.

The most successful individuals are often those who remain curious, adaptable, and willing to learn throughout their lives.

As the futurist Alvin Toffler once observed: *“The illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.”*

I believe this observation is more relevant today than ever before.

Make lifelong learning your passion

Learning is no longer simply a pathway to employment; it is the pathway to personal growth, innovation, and active citizenship.

My second message is that you must always use your talents in service of something greater than yourselves.

Your recent success in the Learn AI Challenge is a good example of this. You used innovation not for its own sake, but to address a practical challenge and improve the delivery of public services.

Our country needs not just competent professionals, but also compassionate and responsible citizens, with a purpose.

Choose to live a life of purpose

As you pursue your ambitions, remember that success is not measured solely by what you achieve for yourself, but also by the positive difference you make in the lives of others.

The future of Mauritius will be shaped not only by intelligence and innovation but also by integrity, empathy, a sense of service to the nation.

Message to Parents

I also thank the parents and family members present here today for the important role they continue to play in the education and development of our children.

Remember that the partnership between home and school remains one of the most important factors in the success and development of young people.

In a rapidly changing world, our children do not only need academic support, but also values, stability, understanding, and positive role models.

Your contribution therefore remains invaluable.

The achievements we celebrate today are not the achievements of students alone.

They are also the result of the encouragement, sacrifices, and unwavering support provided by parents and families throughout the years.

Avant mo terminer, mo envi partage ene l'information personnel avek zot.

Mo oussi mo ene pami zot. Mo oussi mo fine alle en college secondaire privé.

Mo ti envi ki zot inspire zot de mo carrière.

Croire dan zot capacité.

Zot oussi zot capave alle bien loin.

On this special occasion let us pledge to continue to build a brighter future for our children and our country- **As One People, As One Nation.**

Conclusion

With these words, allow me to conclude by congratulating you once again.

May London College continue to flourish, inspire, and contribute to the advancement of education and nation-building for many decades to come.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you.