

## Cambridge diploma ceremony speech :

Hello, I'm Océane Pioche, and I represent all the other students who received their C1 diploma but unfortunately, couldn't be here with us today.

I didn't really think I'd be standing here, on a stage, this diploma in my possession, and I think a lot of us didn't. But today, we /are/ here, standing in front of you all, filled to the brim with pride in what we could achieve - pride in what we can achieve.

The Cambridge exam wasn't just that - an exam -, to me. It was an experience, a journey, a way to connect with others and even learn more about myself, my limits, my goals, and my own definition of working hard.

Because we did - work hard, that is. For almost an entire year, we've studied, we've read, we've listened and we've spoken all the English we could to get where we are.

We shed blood, sweat and tears, despite our busy schedules (I say that thinking about our beloved senior-years who were having their finals at the same time).

You know, in a way, I think that of all this - all the classes, the mock-exams, the hours-long bus trips to the exam center -, all of this was about growing up.

Exactly like the prettiest flowers can't bloom without a fertile soil, we could never have done any of this if it wasn't for Mrs. Ismenoux. And I'll never thank her enough for getting me into this, and I'll never thank her enough for believing in each and every one of us, because that's the most beautiful gift a teacher could give their students.

So we bloomed. Our petals hatched one after the other, as the months went by, and now I can promise one thing : we'll keep blooming, and we'll keep growing. Maybe not all in the same direction, maybe neatly, or in a very messy way, but I know this isn't the end. The Cambridge exam was only the beginning of us opening doors for ourselves, and crafting our own future. We're only getting started.

Thank you for your attention.