

A very good morning to Principal Mr Lee, Vice Principals, Mr Ang and Mr Ho, teachers and fellow Lysians.

I am Evan Tan from Loyang Secondary School and I was a student here from 2009 to 2013. It brings me great joy and pride to stand before you today to share about my journey in the Boys' Brigade and attaining the recent President's Award 2015.

The President's Award is the most prestigious award attainable under the Boys' Brigade Primers Programme. Some of the qualities required are determination, passion, willingness and resilience demonstrated during the activities offered in the programme.

Initially, I had some reservations about applying for this award as I was fearful of competition from other established schools such as Raffles Institution and Anglo-Chinese Independent School. I had doubts regarding whether I could compare to them in terms of communication skills, studies, and experience. With these fears and doubts, I hesitated in my application of the award and missed the initial deadline.

However, I am blessed with a second opportunity as the deadline was extended for me to apply. I thought to myself that I must cherish this chance given to me. Thus I began my preparation of consolidating all the reflections and journals of the projects and community service work I had participated in. Typically, such preparation would take a month at least but I was only given one week to meet the deadline. It was going smoothly until my computer crashed days before submission! I was literally on the verge of giving up but my officers continually encouraged me to continue writing and to have some faith. With their encouragement, I persisted and completed the first phase of the application. Good news came soon after and I received a letter informing me about my selection for an interview. I was delighted yet anxious. During the interview I was asked many questions but the one question that struck me the most was "Why did you choose to apply for this award and what do you hope to achieve out of it?"

Applying this award was never about me. All I wanted was to have the Boys' Brigade 17th Singapore Company from Loyang Secondary School to be recognised so that people will know that there is a group of very supportive and wonderful officers, teachers and primers who have worked diligently to give the Boys a meaningful BB experience. I also hoped to have been able to inspire the lives of many more BB Boys to have greater faith in themselves. After all, life should never be defined by competition; it is defined by the experience. Being in the BB programme, I can say it was one of my best experiences thus far.

Becoming a President's Man is indeed a huge milestone for me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers, teachers and primers of the 17th

Singapore Company for believing in me. The journey was not all smooth sailing but with your guidance and support, it has helped me tremendously in becoming who I am today.

I would also like to thank teachers from Loyang who have one way or another helped to shape who I am today. Special thanks to Mr Roy Lam, Mr Alvin Ng, Ms Philisa Neo, Miss Tan Chew Ngee and Miss Shahida for all their patience and care throughout my years in Loyang Secondary School. I am also especially thankful to our school counsellor, Miss Jow and our school D&T technician Mr Bong for their support.

To teachers who have taught me in Loyang Secondary School, I hope this achievement inspires you to continue with your good work in educating the young minds the same way how all of you have once inspired me to scale great heights.

Last but not least, to my fellow Lysians, I truly hope that my sharing today can inspire you in small ways and you will strive to do great things in life. Bear in mind that there will always be challenges in life but with your teachers' support, I am sure all of you will be able to excel. The biggest challenge is yourself and as long as you are able to overcome that, I am confident you will find success.

I would like to end my speech with a simple quote:
"It's not how you start, but it's how you end"

With that, thank you and have a great day ahead.