

Dear Parents, Valuable Teachers, Dear Students,

I extend all of you a warm welcome to our school.

Every beginning heralds a hopeful future. The secret of improvement is making a start. Today we have gathered to celebrate the start of a new academic year. I thank you for the opportunity to address you on this important day which brought back the memories of my own excitement fifty years ago.

When I entered this gate exactly fifty years ago, I probably was not aware of what kind of a paradise I was stepping into. If I try to list all the things that studying at TAC contributed to us, you will miss your first lesson. However, I think that a brief summary will help. Let's start by reminding you of an inscription on campus you pass by every day:

"Leaders for Turkey, Leadership for the World"

Working towards this goal, TAC is indeed the leading educational institution in the country based on the ratio of graduates taking up senior management positions. You will graduate from a school which raises true leaders, not only in terms of quantity and ratio, but also of quality. The fact that TUSIAD Presidency, the CEO-ship of the country's leading conglomerates and of Coca-Cola, one of largest global corporations, has been held by your fellow elders who have studied in these same desks is a confirmation that this goal is taken seriously, rather than being merely a slogan.

TAC is a school that is envied not only for its potential for future senior executive leaders, but also for the entrepreneurs, scientists, politicians, athletes, and artists it has raised over the years.

The reason for this is that, in addition to its academic emphasis, our school provides an environment where special attention is given to the individual with opportunities for personal talents to emerge and develop. On the other hand, it creates an environment where teamwork is encouraged for working and creating value together with your colleagues.

TAC aims to contribute to the development of self-confident and balanced individuals with social responsibility. For this purpose, our

school draws strong students from various cities in Türkiye at the student admissions stage and provides scholarships to many students from different segments of the community with its belief in the richness of diversity. Club activities, sports and arts activities are as important as lessons at TAC. Clubs, where students practice democratic elections, encourages students to take responsibility, to learn about making a budget while developing a sense of accountability. The successful initiatives of TAC graduates in non-governmental organizations, national championships in basketball and handball, the top places in music competitions are all results of the school's investing in these priorities.

We are all creatures of our habits. Therefore, revisiting your habits and effective use of time should be a top priority for your development. Many values cannot be bought with money and can only be gained through effective use of time. A healthy life, a strong body, a high level of knowledge and culture, a network of loving relationship, and social reputation are all nurtured through daily habits we practice.

The athletes who run for the championship title win not during the final seconds of the race, but during the preparation period preceding it. Those who do not miss any training and make a difference every day hold a significant advantage over other athletes during the race

Those who brush their teeth regularly every day have healthier teeth. Those who pay attention to what they eat every meal do not have to carry excess weight. People who exercise regularly are less likely to suffer an injury.

The knowledge of those who have developed the habit of reading regularly and the discipline to devote time to research remains current. Those who lose their curiosity become outdated.

Those who establish a positive, friendly relationship with their environment, who do not forget their colleagues in their good and bad days, develop an important social asset. As this is something which accumulates over time, those who do not use the time well eventually have a lower social capital.

Social trust is another fragile value that can only be gained over time. Consistency of discourse and actions and the ability to create value for the society are the main pillars of this social trust.

However, perhaps the most important assets we build in this school are the friendships and fraternities we build. The friendships, social awareness, responsibility, dynamism, and self-confidence you will earn at TAC will continue to serve your life beyond graduation. So, each of you has an entitlement for the others. However, the major part of this entitlement belongs to this institution, TAC, and your families who provided you with the opportunity to study at TAC.

My classmates, whom I first met half a century ago this day, have become my most trusted and closest friends during these fifty years. I wish each one of you a life which you live by the principle of continuous learning and embracing your friendships. I hope that you will assume the responsibility to show the perseverance to develop yourselves to improve the quality of life.

Before concluding my remarks, I also would like to stress the great meaning that in today's Opening Ceremony, our school was given the honor of receiving the flag that represents our freedom and our country from Atatürk Mausoleum, Anıtkabir, the home of the eternal rest of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye visionary leader and a great statesman.

I wish you a quality life where you use your time well, develop habits which support your continuous self-improvement, and where you exceed the expectations in your every endeavor.