Welcome to the Chief Guest

Mr Yogendra Narain, Trustees & Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege and an honour for us to welcome you this evening. To spare some of your time in spite of your tremendously busy schedule is a grand bonus for us and a mark of your special favour. Prize Day at La Martiniere is the most significant event in the College calendar. In approaching you to preside over this function we were most sensible of the fact that you have brought dignity and honour to the high office of Chief Secretary to Government of Uttar Pradesh., and as such are a splendid example for our students to follow, quite apart from the fact that as Senior Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities, you are a very important member of the family, La Martiniere. We are grateful for the special honour which you have done us this evening and are more than delighted that you have accepted our invitation. You and your charming wife are no strangers to La Martiniere and your association with the institution goes back many years. However, it is our earnest hope that you will remember your visit to La Martiniere this evening with as much pleasure as we have in welcoming you here.

As a token of our esteem and affection we should like you to accept some small floral tributes from our garden.

It is now my privilege to present, the report of the College for the year 1998 - 99.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:

Mr Yogendra Narain took over charge from Mr R.S. Mathur as Chief Secretary and Senior Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities on the latter’s transfer to Delhi. We welcome him and wish him well on his appointment and trust that he will have a long and fruitful tenure in office. Mr N.K. Mehrotra continued as Legal Remembrancer and Trustee.

We were happy to welcome Mr Justice D.K. Trivedi, as President of the Local Committee of Governors, on the elevation of Mr Justice Brijesh Kumar as Chief Justice of the High Court of Assam. We wish him all success in his appointment and look forward for his guidance in managing the affairs of the College.

During the course of the year we were also pleased to welcome Mr Arun Kumar Mishra, Mr Sadakant and Brigadier Vir Pal Singh on to the Local Committee of Governors of the College. Mr Mishra took over charge from Mr Desh Deepak Verma as Commissioner, Lucknow Division. Mr Sadakant succeeded
Mr Raj Pratap Singh as District Magistrate, Lucknow, and Brigadier Vir Pal Singh was appointed Sub-Area Commander of Lucknow on the transfer of Brigadier Noel Kumar. We wish them all well and consider ourselves fortunate to have the benefit of their help, guidance and support in matters concerning the welfare of the College.

While welcoming the new members and thanking them for them never failing help and encouragement always given so generously, it would not be in the fitness of things if we failed to record our appreciation and gratitude to Mr Justice Brijesh Kumar, the Chairman of the Local Committee of Governors from 1983 to 1999. His advice and help were of tremendous assistance and a source of encouragement at all times. He could always be depended upon for wise counsel and a balanced approach in all matters. His genial and courteous manner invited confidence and his presence at meetings of the Local Committee of Governors will certainly be missed. We wish him well in his new appointment. Although Mr Desh Deepak Verma, Mr Raj Pratap Singh and Brigadier Noel Kumar did not serve very long on the Local Committee of Governors their contribution is no less greatly valued and they too are wished success in their new appointments.

Mr Justice S.N. Sahay and Mr Neil O’Brien continued on the Local Committee of Governors and we are grateful for the benefit of their support and advice.

STAFF

Appointments:

Mrs O Adams joined the Staff in a temporary capacity w.e.f. 05 March, 1998, in place of Mrs L. Parel, who resigned. Mr V. P. Singh was appointed as part-time Teacher of Political Science in March, 1998, but on his resignation his place was taken by Mr Brijendra Pandey.

Mr A. Gomes joined the Staff of the Junior School as Assistant Teacher in the newly opened section of Class II.

Mrs V. Sharma helped as Assistant Teacher in the Middle and Senior School in place of Mrs P. Joshi, who was on study leave from 21 July till 24 August. Mrs S. Prasad worked temporarily as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School in place of Mrs R. Mullick, on medical leave. Ms Monica Koorichh helped as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, w.e.f. 06 August, 1998, in a temporary capacity, in place of Mr C. Rodricks who resigned.
Mrs R. Mukerjee joined as Office Assistant w.e.f. 01 March, 1998, on a year's probation, in place of Mr Amit Srivastava, who had abandoned his employment.

Long and Meritorious Service:

Mrs Leela Rawat, Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, completed twenty-five years of service at the College in July, 1998. Service of such long duration is appreciated and is greatly valued. The College is happy to acknowledge her contribution. In recognition of her service she will receive a token presentation this evening. La Martiniere looks forward to her continued loyal service and dedication.

FINANCES:

The Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College were pleased to sanction a revision in the scales of pay of all categories of the Staff, with effect from 1 April, 1998, in keeping with the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. However, with the greatest reluctance, they also had to sanction an increase in fees to meet the additional expenditure which was considerable.

DEVELOPMENT:

As a third section for Class I was opened in 1997 to accommodate the children who were promoted from the third section of the Preparatory Class, it was necessary to open a third section in Class II at the commencement of the academic session 1998 – 99.

ENROLMENT:

The total strength of the students in the academic session commencing 11 March, 1998, was 2138. Of these 181 were boarders which included 21 Foundationers and 5 Demi-Foundationers in keeping with the provisions of Maj. Gen. Claude Martin's Will.

HEALTH:

In general the health of the resident scholars continued to be good, for which we are most grateful to the Medical Staff of the College. We are also thankful to the Steward and the Housekeeper for providing wholesome food and a balanced diet for the boarders.

EXAMINATIONS:

In March 1998, the College presented 142 candidates for the ISC Examination. Of these 135 were awarded Pass Certificates. Mayank Shivam came first in order of merit securing four points in the four
best subjects. He scored an aggregate of 98 percent. This is the second time since 1996 when a boy has secured such a high percentage. Ashish Agarwal came second with an aggregate of 96.5 percent, and Prateek Chandra and Aaditeshwar Seth came third with aggregates of 96 percent. In all, seven boys scored over ninety percent and forty-four students scored over 80 percent on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

127 candidates appeared for the I.C.S.E. (Year 12) Examination, of whom 123 were awarded Pass Certificates. Gautam Rastogi stood first with an aggregate of 93 percent in the five best subjects. Ankur Prakash came second with an aggregate of 92 percent and Sarthak Havelia and Rohit Behl came third with aggregates of 91.6 percent. In all, 9 boys scored over 90 percent and 28 others scored above 80 percent on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS:

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on 21 March, 1998. Lt Gen. Sangra, G.O.C. in C. Central Command was Chief Guest. He was presented the traditional Guard of Honour by the N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing. Mrs Sangra graciously gave away the prizes.

The Inter-House and Individual Swimming Championships concluded in September. Rohan Dhillon was outstanding in the Senior Division and won the Senior Swimming Championship. He set five new records, namely in the 200 m, 400 m, 500 m and 800 m Free Style Races respectively, and in the 4 x 25m Individual Medley Race. Karamnissht Sareen and Ricky won the Junior and Colts Championships respectively. Ricky Sareen established one new record in the 50 m Free Style event.

The Commemoration Service was held on Founder's Day, 13 September, 1998. Dr S. Emanuel, The Director, Psychiatric Centre, Nur Manzil, delivered the Founder’s Day address.

The Annual Founder's Concert consisted of two plays. "The Referee” by William Andrews and Geoffrey Dearmer was performed by the students of the Senior School while those of the Middle School presented "The Crock, the Cock and the Candle” by Hugh Chesterman. The boys performed most creditably and the plays were hugely enjoyed by the audience. The Vice-Principal and all concerned with the production are greatly deserving of praise and are to be commended and thanked for their hard work. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Award for Histrionics is to be presented this evening to Varun Chatterji of Class 12 and Anand Mull of Class 8.
The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet which was usually held in the last complete week of August was held in September, a change which has been necessitated mainly owing to weather conditions. It was the turn of La Martiniere, Calcutta to visit Lucknow. All the teams performed well. La Martiniere, Lucknow emerged as the winners in the Debating Competition. The College was represented by Gautam Bajaj, Akash Banerjee, Varun Chatterji and Manmeet Singh. The Lucknow team also won the Football Match by two goals to nil. All the members of the team worked very hard and are deserving of all due credit. Although the Swimming Team was not victorious, Rahil Shahryar and Ritik Sahu in the Senior Division, Rahul Sahu in the Junior Division and Karmnisht Sareen in the Colts Division, performed extremely well. Special mention must be made of the tremendous courage of Rohan Dhillon who insisted on taking part in spite of a serious leg injury until forced to retire from the pool. Credit for the fine performance of the boys must be given to Mr T. Savaille, Mr P.V. Collins and Mr G.F. Gomes, who were responsible for training them in debating, football and swimming respectively.

This year there were two innovations which it is hoped will become Annual events. The first was the introduction of a Project Exhibition for the Middle School which was held on 17 October, 1998. It is a pleasure to report that the outcome was a most encouraging one. The students threw themselves enthusiastically into the spirit of things and emerged with some innovative and imaginative models and charts. Much of the credit must also go to the Teachers of Classes VI to VIII, who encouraged the students in their endeavours.

The second feature was the introduction of a Variety Entertainment Programme for students of the Middle School. If the number of parents who attended is any indication, it must be said that the programme was a resounding success. Once again the students enjoyed themselves enormously and delighted their parents and friends. Both they and the teachers who trained and encouraged them are deserving of the highest praise.

Yet another input for the boys of the Middle School was the involvement of those who were interested, in the Newspaper in Education Programme. The boys are sent newspapers everyday for five days in the week and workshops for various activities are organised so that children might realise their potential and be given the opportunity to express themselves. For this we are most grateful to Ms Sushmita Singh of the Times of India and to her team of instructors. As it was found to be working most satisfactorily, the programme was later introduced in the Junior School as well.
The Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 21 November, 1997. Mr Naresh Dayal who was to have been Chief Guest, unfortunately, could not attend owing to unavoidable circumstances. We are grateful to Mr Peter Fanthome, Principal of St Teresa’s Day School and nominated member of the Vidhan Sabha, who took the salute at the March Past and gave away the prizes. The Junior and Colts Championships were won by Rahul Sahu and Devesh Sati Prasad respectively. The College Team, represented by Shivam Vikram Singh, Rahil Shahryar, Sumeet Phillips and Siddharth Mall, won the Inter-School and the Past versus Present 4 x 100 metres Relays. It is also most pleasing to report that a long standing record of 5.42 m in the Long Jump event which was set in 1955 by A. Khan was broken by Shiv Vansh Bharti who set a new record of 5.45 m. All the members of the Staff are richly deserving of praise but Mr R Robinson, Master in-charge of Athletics, who was in overall charge and hence bore the greatest burden, is especially to be commended. We are also most thankful to Mr D. D Singh and Mr K.N. Singh for organising the P.T. and Gymnastics Displays. My appreciation of Mr Gulrez Deen and my gratitude must also be expressed. The music he provided did much to keep the spectators entertained in the interval between items. No mechanical instrument can equal his ability to play music non-stop. He just has a wonderful gift and gives so much pleasure to others. He is a treasure which La Martiniere could ill afford to lose.

The Annual Entertainment in Hindi was scheduled for 28 November, 1998. The plays chosen for performance were “Chor”, a One-Act comedy written by Rajendra Kumar Sharma and a Three Act Comedy "Ek Se Barh Kar Ek” also by the same playwright. Two songs, beautifully rendered by Rana Pawha, accompanied by Manpreet Singh Chadha on the synthesizer and Santosh Yadav on the Congo drums served to fill the intervals while the sets were being changed. The evening was most enjoyable and the audience was most appreciative of the efforts of the boys. The plays were directed and produced jointly by Mr K.B. Lyall and Mrs Ranjana Chakravarti. Both they and all the Members of the Staff who helped in the production, deserve high praise. The entire cast hugely enjoyed themselves and in so doing provided a most entertaining evening for their parents and friends. They are to be greatly commended for their efforts. Deepak Vaid is to receive the prize for Histrionics in Hindi this evening.
The Annual Carol Service was held in the College Chapel on 11 December, 1998. The service was solemn and meaningful. All the readings and recitations were performed by volunteers who participated with interest and reverence, which added much beauty to occasion. For all matters concerning the Choir we are most grateful to Mrs M. Whittaker, who despite illness and inclement weather conditions, rarely fails to attend every day.

The Annual N.C.C. Inter-Platoon Junior Division Competition was held on 12 December, 1998. The Air Wing was awarded the Hashman Memorial Shield for the Best N.C.C. Troop in the Junior Division. The Intermediate Trophy for the Best N.C.C. Troop (Senior Division) was won by Platoon No. 1 comprising of Class XII. In the Inter-Wing Competition Platoon No. I (Class XII) was adjudged the best and will be awarded the Boardman Trophy this afternoon. Vipul Bhargava and Rohan Dhillon were adjudged the Best N.C.C. Cadets in the Senior and Junior Divisions respectively and Imran Khan was adjudged Best Scout.

The Annual Declamation Contest in Hindi was held on 14 October, 1998, and the Annual English Elocution Contest was held on 2 December, 1999. The prize winners of both contests will receive their awards this afternoon.

Special parades were held on Independence Day and Republic Day in which the Scouts, Cubs and N.C.C. Cadets of all three wings of the N.C.C. participated.

Mr Prabhat Sinha, Additional Director for Information, was Chief Guest on Independence Day. Unfortunately, owing to inclement weather the usual N.C.C. Parade could not be held outdoors and a Special Assembly was held in Spence Hall.

On Republic Day Lt. Gen. Sami Khan P.V.S.M., S.M. (Retd.) was Chief Guest. He took the National salute, inspected the Parade and took the salute at the March Past.

A workshop for Career Counselling is held each year. This year it was conducted in December, mainly for the students of Classes X to XII. Dr Amrita Das and her Faculty from the Institute of Career Studies, never fail to give us their support and professional guidance and we are most grateful for it. It is not compulsory for all the students to attend the workshop, but those who do so have always derived great benefit from it, particularly in making the correct choice of subjects for the development of their careers.
OTHER EVENTS:

It is a pleasure to report that our boys participated enthusiastically in several competitions during the year and fared rather well. Arjun Buxi of Class 8 C and Karan Singh of Class 7 B represented the College in the Bournevita Quiz Contest organised in Mumbai from 31 August to 6 September, 1998. Mr R.W. Carville accompanied them. They won through to the Semi-Final Stage but could proceed no further. However, each received a gift cheque of Rs 2,500. I was also informed that the pair made a wonderful impression on everyone as they caught the imagination of the public, much of their popularity springing from the fact that they bore the names of the legendary heroes Karan and Arjun. Their performance in the Contest was recently telecast.

In the FANTASIES EXTRAVAGANZA COMPETITION ’98 which was held on 14 and 15 September, the College team represented by Akash Banerjee and Manmeet Singh stood First in the Debate Competition. In addition Akash Banerjee received the Best Speaker’s Award and Manmeet Singh came Second. Amogh Pant and Gaurav Misra who took part in the Quiz Competition also came First.

COFAS ’98, the Computer Fair and Seminar was hosted by the City Montessori School, Station Road Branch from 17 - 19 September, 1998. In the College Section La Martiniere stood First in the Debate. Akash Banerjee and Abhishek Goel represented the College and Akash Banerjee was not only awarded the prize as Best Speaker against the Motion but was also given a Special Award by the organisers for having participated in the competition for four consecutive years. Fahad Khowaja and Nilanjan Roy Choudhary who represented the School Section came Third in the Quiz.

An Inter-School Swimming Meet was organised by the City Montessori School, Gomtinagar Branch, was held on 27 October, 1998. Ten schools in the city took part and it is a matter of pride to report that La Martiniere emerged as the Overall Champions. Rahil Shahryar in the Senior Section and Karamnisht Sareen in the Junior Section deserve special mention as they stood First in both the events in which they participated. Other swimmers who won prizes were Abhishek Gupta, Rohan Dhillon, Barry Robinson and Ritik Sahu in the Senior Division and A Sharma in the Junior Division.

Students of the College participated in QUANTA ’98, a Science Competition organised by the City Montessori School, Chowk Branch from 18 to 21 November. The College was represented by Akash Banerjee, Varun Chatterji, Japinder Singh Chawla, Shashwat Khandelwal, Gaurav Misra, Amogh Pant, and
Anshul Punetha. La Martiniere emerged as the Overall Champions. Akash Banerjee came First in the Group Discussion and the combination of Varun Chatterji and Shashwat Khandelwal stood First in Software Development. Third Prizes were also awarded to Japinder Singh Chawla and Gaurav Misra for the Mathematics Quiz and Amogh Pant and Anshul Punetha for the Science Quiz. The Debating team consisting of Akash Banerjee and Varun Chatterji and the team of Amogh Pant and Anshul Punetha who took part in the Instrumental Music Competition also made their presence felt as they were presented Gold Consolation prizes.

The Frank Anthony Memorial All-India Inter School Debate is organised by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi. The first stage of the competition was conducted by the Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, Lucknow. The College team represented by Akash Banerjee and Abhishek Goel emerged as winners. They were adjudged Best Speaker For and Against the Motion respectively. They also went on to win the Inter-Zone Final held at Delhi on 10 November, 1998. Akash Banerjee came first and Abhishek Goel stood third. The National Final was held at Bangalore on 12 December, 1998. The competition was fierce and the boys acquitted themselves with honour. The team stood second and each boy received Rs 3,000 and a silver medal. Akash Banerjee was also awarded the Second Prize in an individual capacity. He received a gift cheque of Rs 3,000 and a silver medal. (Please give the boys and Mr T. Savaille, the Master in-charge a warm round of applause.) It was decided to fly the team and the Master in charge to Bangalore and back, in order that the studies of the students should not be adversely affected, since both boys are candidates for the I.S.C. Examination. We are deeply indebted to the Director of Sahara India for the generous concession in air fares which made it possible.

30 cadets of the Senior Division, Army Wing attended the Annual Training Camp which was conducted from 20 October to 1 November, 1998 on the Army Parade Ground. Cadets Ritesh Tandon, Mayank Bagchi and Amit Singh are to be commended.

25 cadets of the N.C.C. Naval Wing, Junior Division attended the Pre Nau-Sainik camp at Nanakmatta, which was held from 14 October, to 24 October, 1998.

During the year tournaments organised by the Old Boys. The Past versus Present Football Match ended in a draw 2-0. The Past Team won the Cricket Tournament held on Republic Day, 26 January, 1999, and cash awards were presented to some of the outstanding players.
Apart from the competitions mentioned above the students participated in many others with enthusiasm but did not win significant awards. One such competition was the Literary Competition organised by St Agnes’ Loreto Day School.

We are grateful to all those who helped train the teams and congratulate the boys who won laurels.

Besides sports and co-curricular activities students are also encouraged to give of their time in helping the poor and less privileged members of society. Under the supervision of Mrs S.B. Hasan, the Social Service League took the lead in this. They visited some of the slums in the city. Mr D.B. Tripathi, and Mr P.V. Collins, Officers in charge of the Senior Division Army Wing and Junior Division, Naval Wing, respectively and several volunteers from among the N.C.C. cadets under their charge, assisted in distributing clothes to the less fortunate. The Social Service League assisted in getting several children, who were eager to attend school, admitted in a nearby Municipality School and assisted in supplying them with school uniforms and stationery. Just before the winter vacation clothes and other items were donated by several students. These were sorted and arranged in bundles by the Members of the League and given to the inmates of “Prem Niwas” a home for the dying destitutes established by Mother Teresa.

In September, when there was much havoc created by floods the boys most generously donated various items for the alleviation of the flood affected victims.

For several years now Mr Roy Robinson has been running the Photography Club. It has performed yeoman service and till now, owing to a gross and unforgivable oversight, credit for their pains has been denied them in public. I would like to make amends at this time and commend them heartily for the useful service they perform. They have not only been developing their own considerable skills but they have been responsible for providing photographs to their colleges at a very reasonable cost. I take this opportunity to thank them and Mr Robinson for their most useful efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Sudhir Kapoor and his colleagues most warmly for providing the facility of a free dental check-up for all the students of the College up to Class IX
JUNIOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Learning inside the Classroom is often supplemented with outdoor experience. This year several excursions were arranged. The boys of Class III visited the Gyan Dairy, Class IV visited a plastics factory and Class V visited a soap factory.

As part of the Independence Day celebrations tree planting was organised and Quiz and Art Competitions were held.

The Annual Elocution Contests in English and in Hindi were held on 29 October, 1998. The winners will receive their prizes this evening.

Regular monthly visits to Prem Niwas, run by the Missionaries of Charity, are also organised for the Junior School students. They take medicine, clothes and toilet articles for the inmates. This has helped them become aware of the need to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Entertainment ranks high in the priorities of the Junior School. Bal melas are often organised and movie outings are arranged from time to time. The children enjoy themselves and drive the teachers insane temporarily, but they come back to work all the more refreshed.

The Project Display was held on 7 November, 1998 and was a feast for the eyes. All the parents who visited appreciated it greatly, even though some of them worked harder than the children.

The highlight of the activities is the Junior School Sports. There appears never to be an end to the novelty of events. Under the able guidance of the Headmistress the teachers are always able to pull not one but several rabbits out of a variety of hats. It is an event that entire families attend and enjoy immensely. Every child in Junior School is encouraged to participate. The Prize Distribution takes longer than the events themselves, but the entertainment and joy it provides is well worth the inconvenience. But perhaps, the most entertainment comes from Mr Gulrez Deen who plays music without pause throughout the evening. It is a sheer delight and we are grateful for his invaluable contribution to any function. He is simply worth his weight in gold.

The Junior School at La Martiniere continues to be a hive of activity. Its popularity in the town continues unabated. For this I would be failing in my duty if I did not acknowledge unreservedly the tremendous role played by the Second Assistant and Headmistress of the Junior School. (Please give her a
warm round of applause). I am also deeply indebted to all the Staff of the Junior School who so willingly give of their best. This does not mean that I value any less the efforts of my other colleagues on the Staff. I have had occasion to say it before, but it can bear repetition.

The Junior School has a very special place at La Martiniere and it is my prayer and hope that it will continue to be so always.

INSTITUTION OF AN AWARD

The Local Committee of Governors was pleased to accept with thanks the proposal of Mrs S.B. Hasan, to institute an award for Geography in Class X. The prize is to be awarded each year to the student who secures the highest marks in Geography in the I.C.S.E. Class. Mrs S.B. Hasan teaches Geography in the Senior and Middle School and she has requested that the award be called the Syed Hidayat Memorial Award for Geography, in memory of her late father. The award is to be presented for the first time this evening.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the support and guidance of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters concerning the welfare of La Martiniere and I am particularly thankful to those who are with us today.

The Lady Principal of the Girls’ College and I have to work in close collaboration very frequently and it is with immense pleasure that I take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Farida Abraham for all her support, advice and encouragement, at all times so willingly and graciously given..

I am most grateful to the Vice-Principal, the Second Assistant and Headmistress of the Junior School, the House Masters and the Bursar. In fact, there is no member of the staff who does not have a role to play in the scheme of things and it would be improper and insensitive to discount it. I can only accept the contribution humbly and be deeply appreciative of the co-operation of all my colleagues. No institution can run effectively if it does not have the active support of all its members. I wish to record my gratitude to every category of the staff for all that they do.

La Martiniere has many friends and well-wishers and I am grateful to them for their support and help at all times.
But the greatest asset of this institution is its students. Not one of them is unworthy of attention. In fact, it is they who make life exciting and worthwhile. For them I reserve the highest praise and humblest gratitude. Let us, who have chosen to dedicate our lives to enlightening the minds of others, make them our main focus. It is only then that we will have fulfilled, in some small measure, our purpose in life.

Long live La Martiniere!