Welcome to the Student Achievement Awards Ireland 2020! While it is a different event than we had hoped and planned for, it is an honour and privilege to welcome you to our awards this evening.

These awards are an important part of our calendar each year because it gives us the opportunity to recognize the amazing achievements of students across the island of Ireland.

The work that each and every one of you has put into making your campuses and our society a better place is incredible.

Each of you has given your time, your energy and your passion to each of your respective fields. Each of you is a change-maker, changing minds, educating people, raising funds for vital charities, building a sense of community for fellow students and so much more. Leading that change can sometimes go without receiving the praise and gratitude it truly deserves but I want you to assure that you all have done and will continue to do in the future.

We want to ensure we can raise awareness about the incredible work you have done so please make sure to join in on social media so post, tweet and retweet each other using #SAAI2020. Congratulate each other and celebrate together online!

All that is left to say is I hope you enjoy the evening and I hope we will be back together in person soon.

Take care, stay safe.