

## **Head Girl – Aunika Pandey**

There's a strange ache in moments like these when everything you are stands in the same place as everything you've been. When time folds in on itself and the little girl you were 14 years ago meets the girl who grew not despite it all but because of it all.

Vande Matram respected principal ma'am, esteemed authorities, beloved teachers and my fellow Jaipurians. It is both a matter of profound honor and privilege to stand here today as the head girl for the academic session 2025–26.

I will begin by addressing the custodians of our school's legacy and ideology, the newly appointed student council prefects.

The badge you receive today, it's not a medal. Instead, it's a mirror. It is a mirror reflecting the support of everyone who has shaped you to become who you are today. It is the reflection of the immense faith those people have in you.

Be it your parents, your teachers or your friends, do not let that faith waver. Do not let them down. Hold this pride. Hold this badge not only with pride but also with a firm and resolute purpose.

And now to my juniors, my mighty mighty Jaipurians, I have two things to offer you today. A promise and a little piece of advice.

First, do not hold yourself back ever in life. Approach me with whatever problem you have, however little it may seem to you. If there's one thing I want to be remembered as, it is not by the title or the badge I have. It is by the fact that I was approachable, that you could come up to me with whatever you had in mind and you knew that you would not go back unheard.

Secondly, live these years fully. Learn to say yes to things and step up even if you think you are afraid of doing something. Take a little risk because I, coming from somebody who stands on the other side of the timeline, will tell you it all moves faster than you expect, and in the end you find yourself trying to hold time back just a little.

And now to speak of the feeling I've carried in me so deeply, especially for the past few weeks. Gratitude.

However much I may feel it, I have not been able to articulate any words for it. Firstly, to the Almighty for His quiet grace and blessings. To the school, the place that I have called my home for the past 14 years of my life and will always continue to.

To principal ma'am and every school head who believed in me and who thought that I was capable enough to shoulder a responsibility as profound as this.

To teachers who I believe are the biggest embodiment of optimism and hope. Thank you for holding my hand when I was learning how to spell my name and staying long enough to help me find my identity. Thank you for seeing something in me that even I couldn't see.

Next, the support staff who have cared for me and supported me as if I was their own, in the quietest and kindest ways. Be it that little smile I see at the gate or throughout the day after a troublesome moment when I go to aaya didi and tell her what happened and she tells me it'll all be fine, don't you worry.

Lastly, not lastly actually, to my peers, to my friends and especially Vartika, Saanvi and Sarthak who knew how much this meant to me and who have pushed me to my own potential even when I couldn't see it.

Now lastly, to my two unwavering pillars of my world, my parents, my guideposts and my forever constants. If in my life I grow to become even a sliver as selfless, as giving and as strong as they are, I would consider myself to be the strongest person on this earth. Everything I am and everything I hope to be begins with them.

With this, I would just like to conclude my speech and say,

**चलो कुछ ऐसा करे कि वक्त भी सलाम करे,**

**हमारे हर कदम पर ज़माना क्रयाम करे !**