

Good evening, Chair of Governors, Governors, Parents, staff, students. I extend a warm welcome to our guest special guest speaker, Charlene White, thank you for joining us and we look forward to your address a bit later.

I am delighted to welcome you all to our annual awards evening for the academic year 2017 /2018. This is a time in the school year when we celebrate our collective achievements. This evening we have students eagerly waiting to collect their well earned prizes, some awards for academic excellence, some for amazing progress and some for simply trying their very best! All these wonderful aspects of learning should be acknowledged.

There is no better way than to celebrate this in the splendid surroundings of Holy Trinity Church.

Some of our students will also be performing this evening and you will witness their superb talent in music and poetry.

We all know that education is facing turbulent times and as a school, we have to continue to provide the best education possible within the ever growing curriculum and financial constraints put upon us by the Government.

Education involves learning, study and examinations but it is about much more than that: It is about learning how to learn and how to find out about new things. This cannot be achieved without enthusiasm, interest, curiosity and drive, the qualities which are the an important part of the learning process. It is about making the most of our God given talents.

You will hear this evening of remarkable individual success stories. As a school we work tirelessly to help and support students to overcome learning difficulties, challenging personal circumstances, health issues and uncertain family circumstances. I mention this not for you to feel sympathy for those individuals, but because I praise their commitment, dedication and perseverance as they act on their teachers' advice and work hard to achieve their very best.

Benjamin E Mays an African American Minister remembered for his outstanding leadership and his service as a teacher, preacher, mentor scholar author, and civil rights leader who is credited with laying the intellectual foundations of the African-American civil rights movement once said, "The tragedy of life is often not in our failure, but rather in our complacency; not in our doing too much, but rather in our doing too little; not in our living above our ability, but rather in our living below our capacities"

Our vision is simple, "Inspired to Learn", "Ambitious for the Future".

We believe in all our students and work hard to help them achieve their goals and their dreams. There is a quote from our recent Ofsted inspection that says, The motto of the school, 'Caritate et Disciplina with Love and Learning', is driven by all staff in a common endeavour to improve pupils' life chances.

The inspection team identified our shared ambition for each and every student. We want our students to stand out from the crowd in their future lives as interesting individuals full of character who will possess the skills and mindset to make the most of our fast paced world and above all who will make a positive difference in the the future world.

So, we ensure they are not complacent, don't do too little, and they certainly do not live below their capacity. We continue to be proud of our students who go on to some of the most prestigious universities, or pursue an apprenticeship. Whatever their chosen career path, we have enabled them to make choices for themselves.

Someone who knows only too well about realising dreams and how important it is to make and have choices is our Guest Speaker, Journalist and Newsreader, Charlene White. Amongst other notable achievements, Charlene is the first black woman to read the 10 o'clock news. It is with great pleasure that I welcome Charlene White. I am sure you will look forward to hearing her speech and to witnessing all the students receiving their prizes this evening.

Beverley Stanislaus
10 December 2018