

# The Headmaster's Review

What follows is the text of the Headmaster's Speech Day Address, delivered at St Barnabas Church on the morning of Founder's Day, 29 June 2019.

Chairman, distinguished guests, Governors, parents and prize-winners: it is my pleasure to report for the ninth time as Headmaster at Alleyn's School Speech Day.

We meet today at the mid-point of our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – a year which began in the sacral splendour of Westminster Abbey and which will conclude next term with an alumni dinner at the House of Lords and a special Carol Service in Christ's Chapel. Between times we have held a series of free public lectures, All@Alleyns, on topics ranging from Pissarro in Dulwich to the Psychology of Evil, and welcomed over 500 former pupils back for the Big Reunion a fortnight ago, where the youngest guest was 19 and the oldest 91! All were amazed by the striking progress of the School, its site and its facilities over the decades; but at the same time reassured by the enduring values which animate the place and all those who work and study here: values of decency, courtesy and kindness, and a passionate commitment to enquiry after truth, rationally arrived at and rigorously tested. Such values and qualities imbue our prize-winners today, who are themselves representative of the whole pupil body who do so much, with the support and guidance of my colleagues here behind me, to make this School such a remarkable one – 400 years after the Founder signed those Letters Patent and got this South London show on the road.

(Talking of the Letters Patent, I would like to mention now that the major anniversary event for parents will be an evening of Jacobean entertainment on 13 September, Patently Alleyn's, and tickets are available now via the MCT Box Office!)

If truth be told, the College of God's Gift has not always been the acme of academic excellence, with the boys - for boys they were - engaged in sheep-stealing and highway robbery between bouts of book learning more credulous than sedulous. How different the Alleyn's of today, where last year's public examinations saw over the half of GCSEs awarded the new grade 9, with 74% A\*89 and 99% A\*AB6789. At A level, 37% of all grades awarded were A\*, 76% A\*A, and 92% A\*AB. These impressive results once again opened doors for our leavers, of whom the vast majority went on to a university of preference. In addition to applications via the UCAS system, five students took up places at Boston, McGill, the TUV in Berlin and the University of Virginia; and four students started an Art Foundation course, three in London and one in Paris.

Outcomes like these are long in gestation, carefully nurtured in an holistic academic environment, where all disciplines are equally valued. Our enrichment and extension programme offers courses as diverse as Introductory Arabic and Cognitive Decision-making, while visiting speakers have included Judge Deborah Taylor and Inside Time editor Erwin James on the contemporary justice system, and broadcaster Paddy O'Connell who delivered the annual RV Jones Science Lecture on the subject of RV Jones himself and The Science of Secrecy, while all Lower School pupils were taken off timetable to attend a demonstration-led talk from our new Scientist in Residence, Dr Kevin Fong OBE, entitled Moon Shot: The Science of Space Flight. Back on terra firma, Pricegore Architects - the winners of the recently unveiled summer pavilion at Dulwich Picture Gallery - talked to Year 8 pupils at the Private View of their exhibition of pavilion models, while Humphrey Ocean RA opened our annual Summer Show of Art, Design and Film, which you can enjoy this afternoon, as usual. The Careers Day focused on how to make a positive impact in our working lives, featuring social entrepreneur Ted Rosner AOBG of Redemption Roasters; while the Enrichment Day explored issues of diversity, discrimination and privilege with the help of Richard McKerrow from Love Productions, Jo Kandola from the Bias Gym, and acclaimed writer Noo Saro-Wiwa.

The idea, of course, is to introduce our pupils to new perspectives and ways of thinking so they will be inspired to develop their own ideas and talents. Many do, including Eleanor Stratton and Sam Innes, who won a place in the final of the French inter-School debating competition, les Joutes Oratoires; while Sam and Emily Stephens were shortlisted for their entries to a Classics competition run by St John's College Oxford on love as a narrative force in epic. Sorrel Banfield won a German essay competition run by King's College London; and Alice Kettlewell's entry to the Churchill Economics Prize at Cambridge was highly commended. Other highlights of another academic year in action include Ewan Neumann, who won a Distinction in the British Maths Olympiad; Adam Xu and Tom Packer, who were awarded prestigious Nuffield Research placements for STEM research. Remarkably, all six Alleyn's teams in this year's CREST Science Programme won Gold Awards; while a team of Middle School pupils designed and built a satellite in a coke can that successfully managed to record key data as the can fell back to earth. The participants have now naturally morphed into a Robot Wars club next year. Alba MacGillivray won the Governor's Research Prize Project for her superb essay on 'How *Guernica* has become a global icon of political protest and truly the last great history painting'; while Lara Tudor won the Headmaster's Review Prize for her study of film noir classic *The Night of the Hunter*. Innumerable others have received Recommended Works, been asked by their teacher to sign the Headmaster's Book of Achievement, or simply encouraged by a kind word or challenged to greater efforts: for as Goethe reminds us, nothing is more terrible than ignorance in action.

By contrast, few things are better than to see generosity in action, and the Alleyn's community has been as generous as ever in this quatercentenary year. Many supporters – including many people here today, as well as both the AJSA and APA - have already given to the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign: Growing Bursaries for the Future, and we naturally hope that many more will do so in the months ahead, as we seek to develop the current ten per cent of pupils receiving a means-tested bursary

to 20% in the future. (The current average bursary at Alleyn's, by the way, is 93% of the fees, and 75 pupils in the School next year will pay no fees at all – something my colleagues and I are immensely proud of, the product of many years planning, effort and generosity from a wide range of donors, to whom we owe a huge debt of thanks.)

Our pupils are generous too, with time and money. Led by the indefatigable officers of the Charity Committee, we have raised over £10,000 (and increased public awareness) for our two partner charities, Sparrow Schools and Reach Out UK, who will use the money to help disadvantaged young people in the UK and South Africa. Our eight Houses have also supported a wide range of charities this year, chosen by the pupils and supported by various events, competitions and spectacles. This year Brading's have supported the Change Foundation and 40tude; Brown's the British Heart Foundation; Cribb's Veterans with Dogs and the Kashf Foundation; Dutton's the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity; Roper's Women and Children First; Spurgeon's The White Helmets; Tulley's the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital; and Tyson's Child Bereavement UK and Emmaus.

Teamwork, togetherness and a sense of contributing to something greater than the self alone also characterises co-curricular activities like the Combined Cadet Force, which continues to develop and grow. In addition to regular field days, camps and expeditions, both in this country and overseas, the CCF supported the wider community both at Remembrance Sunday and in the Lord Mayors' Parade, as well as acquitting itself admirably in the National Schools Shooting Meeting at Bisley. Cadet Liam Fernandes has been awarded a place on the International Canadian Cadet Exchange, Grace Reeve has been awarded the Deputy Lord Lieutenant's Certificate, and Warrant Officer Freya Hibberd has won a coveted Army Medical Scholarship.

Almost 200 pupils took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this year, with all Bronze participants passing their qualifying expedition in the New Forest, and both the Silvers and Golds looking forward to completing their assessed expedition in

North Wales in July. Edgar Beck has been awarded the Gold Prize, and no fewer than 17 Gold Award holders received their certificates at Buckingham Palace last month, joined by senior members of staff Sue Chandler, Simon Dalwood and Marilyn Walker, who collected long service certificates for their combined 99 years of DofE service!

Talking of service, there are now a multitude of ways in which our pupils can get directly involved in the community through our volunteering and outreach schemes. For example, 122 Year 12 students have seized the opportunity to devise and deliver projects at local state primary schools where teachers may not have specialist training in particular fields. Our students have also participated in the 'Rhythm for Reading' scheme which helps Year 5 pupils to use music to improve their literacy skills; and 60 Year 8 pupils have worked every week with older people with Dementia as part of the 'Sweet Readers' programme. Our Saturday Maths Scheme also continues to flourish, with over 50 Year 5 pupils from 12 local primaries mentored by 45 of our Year 11s who give up their Saturday mornings to help. We are thrilled that our Primary Outreach Programme has been recognised by The Goldsmith's Company for outstanding work within schools, with six Year 12s attending the national final this week. Our Volunteering programme continues to offer four varied activities for pupils in Years 10-13, including The Bridge Leisure Centre in Sydenham and two local residential care homes. The Senior Saints scheme takes place here at Alleyn's, where students offer computing expertise to the elderly clients of Linkage Southwark. We have also been working closely with the Dulwich Estate and Almshouses as part of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary to help create and build the new meadow and orchard in Dulwich Village. A number of Alleyn's pupils helped out at the annual Reception at Dulwich Picture Gallery which raised over £53,000 for St Christopher's Hospice.

As well as widening perspectives and building relationships through the energies and commitment of our pupils, we have also continued to share our resources and expertise with local state schools and community organisations. Our facilities have

been used for over 1,100 hours in the past year, benefiting more than 4,000 children and adults encompassing 21 different projects. For example, we host school sports days and fixtures as well as PE lessons and Forest School activities on a regular basis. Our aquatics team run learn to swim programmes for schools, and our performance facilities are used for their end-of-term-productions. Other organisations we have worked with include XLP Youth Charity, Girls United, Think Malawi, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Camberwell Beavers. In addition, a new IT link has been set up with the Methodist Girls High school in Freetown, Sierra Leone, where our eLearning assistant, Showers Jalloh, spent a week training the teachers and pupils in how to use the 21 iPads we have donated. Lower School pupils have been making podcasts about life in the UK and Alleyn's which have been listened to in Freetown and we now have received our first podcast back from Sierre Leone, with more hopefully to come. Closer to home, we have led or hosted some 25 initiatives as part of the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership, and our former Head of Physics will lead a visit for SSLP schools to CERN in August which will include a student from the London Academy of Excellence in Tottenham, which Alleyn's has supported. The Biology, Chemistry, Design Technology and Politics departments continue to offer support to LAET; and academic talks have been delivered by our staff around Music, Geography, Drama and Art History to the LAET students. The wide scope and impact of all this partnership work has been recognised by the Department for Education and its Systems Partnership Unit. All our projects may be seen on the government-sponsored Schools Together website, where I am pleased to say Alleyn's is perhaps the most heavily featured independent school in the country.

None of this work is undertaken because we have been told to, or to tick a box on an inspection framework: we do it because we are a charity with a four-century commitment to, and investment in, the community of which we are part and an educational philosophy which seeks not to grind towards grades but to promote flourishing for the self within society. A critical part of all this is, of course, the

Chaplaincy, which has this year seen the departure of one Chaplain, Reverend Buckley, to Oxford, and the arrival of another, Reverend Lander, from Eden Park – supported throughout by the Assistant Chaplain, Mrs Birt. One highlight this year for the Chaplaincy was our successful participation in the Cranmer Awards, a reading competition organised by the Prayer Book Society, which saw Anna Grube qualifying for the finals at Lambeth Palace. In May, our Foundation Schools confirmation service was led by former Governor Bishop Christopher, Bishop of Southwark, a warm and moving service for all our candidates, their families and supporters.

Universal themes around husbanding gifts and thinking of others both in time (the generations to come) and space (our place in the wider world) animate the work of the Eco Committee, which has continued to promote green issues at School. Our first dedicated Sustainability Week in March focused on the food we eat, the waste we make and the air that we breath. To address these themes we have embarked on a programme to plant 400 trees and hedges around the site to help mitigate the effects of pollution; we are seeking to reduce our photocopying and printing; and we have removed all disposable cups from the Dining Hall and café and aim to phase-out single-use plastics by embracing reusable cups and water bottles. During the week itself the opportunity to enjoy Flexitarian Mondays and to donate clothes for recycling were promoted. (On which point, the amazing efforts of the APA to improve the working of the lost property system at School have been amazingly helpful and greatly appreciated.) Altogether, pupils and staff made over 500 sustainability pledges, and the Eco Committee itself volunteered with the London Wildlife Trust to plant a new hedgerow on the edge of Sydenham Hill Wood. (Following a similar project in Dulwich Park last year, Mr Sleath confirms we are now a hedge planting force to be reckoned with!) Back in January, Dr Ian Mudway (KCL) set the context for this work with a keynote talk to parents and staff on the impact of air pollution on children’s health, and we do take the matter extremely seriously. We have installed Alleyn’s ‘no-idling’ banners on the School gates and participated in the Clean Air Day on 10 June; we

continue to promote sustainable transport among both pupils and staff; and we strive to reduce our carbon footprint through the decisions we make when considering new contracts, vehicles, equipment and building projects.

From universal themes to the universal language - of music! A major highlight this year was of course the Service of Commemoration at Westminster Abbey, for which our singers and brass players put in many months of preparation, filling this iconic space with music that was carefully chosen to reflect our quatercentenary. Of particular significance was the premier of a specially commissioned new anthem, 'I will be with thee', by distinguished composer Dobrinka Tabakova AOBG. Before that, November's sell-out run of rock-musical Rent, featuring our dancers, actors and musicians, was met with enthusiastic acclaim, and was followed by two concerts in the MCT in December: the St Cecilia's Concert and the Christmas Concert. Alongside the regular biennial piano and string competitions - won by Alex Buckley (piano) and Jemima Ward and Hailey Wong (strings) - this year saw the introduction of a singing competition, which was won by Amy Smith. (And I am pleased to say that next year we look forward to introducing the inaugural Jack Lanchbery Composition Competition.) The informal Friday Lunchtime Concert series continues to thrive, and our pupils have also enjoyed working with professional musicians as part of our International Concert Series workshops. In the past few months, all groups have performed at one of our major end-of-year concerts, including Jazz Night at the Hideaway (featuring clarinet soloist Ed Lindsay-Black), the Chamber Concert at Blackheath, the Orchestral & Choral concert at St John's Smith Square (featuring flute soloist Rianna Henriques), and A Lot of Hot Air & a Bit of a Scrape here in the Edward Almeyn Building. Next week, our singers go on a Music Tour to Rome to perform in the Pantheon and St Peter's; but right now it is time to take a break and enjoy Rianna playing 'Le Chant du Vent' by Johannes Donjon.

Earlier in the year, Rianna performed a solo recital in the Elgar Room at the Royal Albert Hall, and next year will attend the Royal College of Music to continue her studies in flute and saxophone. We wish her – and all our leaving musicians, dancers, actors and performers in general – all the very best for the future. Their contribution to the tone and texture of life at Alleyn's was rightly celebrated at the annual Performing Arts Dinner last week, and what a memorable contribution it has been.

Dance is now embedded in the timetable for all year groups, allowing for real continuity and progression. Hardly surprising, then, that the enormous Dance Show *Shine* in April featured a staggering 36 pieces performed by 142 pupils from across the School, some taking to the stage for the very first time. It was wonderful to see such interest and enthusiasm from boys and girls from every year group and such an exciting range of different styles and thematic content. Looking towards next term, as part of the Jacobean Day Miss Demain is currently working with Year 8 and 10 dancers on two pieces based on conspiracy and persecution. If you would like to see how these themes can be expressed through dance, do please come on 13 September.

Just as Dance, Music and Drama will combine on the Jacobean Day, so they combined on the remarkable Upper School Musical *Rent*. With a company of 70 student actors, designers, musicians and technicians, it was a bold choice which paid huge dividends. The music was wonderful, the dancing - choreographed by Year 13 student Cameron Macgregor - was stunning and the whole evening a testament to the inclusivity and generosity of the performing arts at Alleyn's. By contrast, a suitably Jacobean mood was achieved through the Middle School production of Middleton's deliciously dark masterpiece *The Revenger's Tragedy*, a web of murder and intrigue brought to compelling life by a terrific company of Year 9s and 10s, displaying impressive maturity in their handling of the verse as well as the action. Similar exuberance was evident in the Lower School play, *The Compleat Works of Willm Shkspr (Abridged)*,

which saw a company of 70 Lower School actors, designers and technicians continuing the anniversary theme with an irreverent romp through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays. Alongside these major productions, the Year 11 Bear Pit showcased five shows including two pieces of new writing, again setting the bar high for the Upper School in January, who responded with no fewer than 12 shows, all boasting compelling performances and the kind of risk-taking theatre that Mr Piper assures us we love to celebrate in D1 of a winter's evening. We also had five evenings of LAMDA over the Trinity Term (with Tom Martin in Year 12 scoring 100% in his Gold Medal examination!) and the inaugural Lower School Bear Pit Improv Festival just a couple of weeks ago. Finally, just as last summer the Bear Pit theatre performed at the Edinburgh Fringe for the eighth year running with *The First Love Project*, so this August they will be back in C Venues with another original show, *35,000*. Tickets are available via the Festival Fringe box office.

And so finally to Sport, as the country enjoys not one world cup but two, with the women's football in France and the men's cricket here in England. Our cricketers have had a terrific season. We welcomed 300 participants to the inaugural Alleyne's girls' cricket festival and our U12s won their age group. The U13 boys won the Gifford London Cup, and our U12s and 13s also reached London finals, with the latter becoming London Champions for the second year running, captain Christian Grey and Max Bavinton both scoring fifties in a 100-run partnership! In football, the U18 girls, captained by Honor Tennant, went one better than last year and won the ISFA Cup final convincingly at Bisham Abbey. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI boys, captained by Zach Wood, had an excellent season; while the U13 boys also reached their ISFA final; indeed, we were the only School in the country to have two finalists in the ISFA competitions.

In hockey, the U12 girls were southern region champions, an unprecedented success in that age group. The U14 boys were champions at both county and regional level, narrowly missing out on a national final place on strokes. The successful introduction

of an indoor programme saw the U16 boys win their county round; and Ed Marshall (Year 11) won an international cap for England against Scotland. In water polo, we made five out of six national finals with the U18 and U15 girls crowned National Champions. In another unprecedented achievement, the U19 boys won the Schools Water Polo League; while Emily Campbell-Lamerton won an international cap representing England, winning bronze at the EU Nations tournament. Emily and Jude Tinkler-Davies also represented England in the ESSA match against Australian Schools. In netball, the U16s were Surrey County champions with the U18 and U15s also making the Surrey Finals; and in basketball, the U19s won the London Cup, beating Whitgift in the final they advanced to the last 16 of the senior national competition.

In fives, Gwydion Wiseman (Year 11) won the U18 West of England Championship. He also won the Senior Doubles partnered by Alex Cochrane (Year 13). Stuart Scott and Martha Nugent won the U16 doubles championships, Martha being the first girl in history to win an open competition medal. Theo Vernacchio won the national U13 singles championships and went on to win the doubles partnered by Laurie Milner; while Claudia Davey (U13) and Martha Nugent (U16) were national champions in their respective age groups. Both girls then combined to win the girls U16 national title!

In athletics, Gabriella Thoburn, Sasha Howard and Eve Hepworth (Year 9) along with Mabel Smith and Ailbhe Barnes (Year 10) have been selected to represent London at the English Schools Athletics championships in July. At the county championships, the girls combined for three gold and two silver medals in their respective events. Ailbhe also qualified to represent London at the English Schools Cross-Country, and Gabriella broke the school pentathlon record (set in 2013) to win the Junior Girls London combined events competition. With Sasha Howard coming second and Sally Reeve third, these girls will now represent Alleyn's and London in the South East Regional competition – another quite remarkable achievement. Outside School, Theo Dan (Year 13) was selected for U18 England Rugby and recently won his first international

cap playing against France, as well as a professional contract from Saracens! Paola Neal Fagan (Year 11) became Britain's number three in her age group in bouldering (rock climbing), 20th in Europe, and has represented Ireland in this sport. Overall this year, over 150 Alleyn's teams have played more than 1,200 competitive fixtures with just under 700 pupils having represented the School in Sport - which, let's face it, is just brilliant.

Two former colleagues who would have been thrilled by all these achievements, on the sports field and in general, are Reverend Howard Jones and Mr Phil Gillard, both of whom have recently passed away. Howard Jones was School Chaplain here from 1989 to 2008 and died in September in his beloved Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. Howard was a much loved and respected servant of the School and the wider Dulwich community and he will be remembered with deep affection, honour and respect. By the same token, we were deeply saddened to learn of the death, aged 93, of Phil Gillard, a distinguished Oxford linguist who taught French at Alleyn's from 1955 to 1988. In a brilliant and committed career at the School, he was also a long-standing Housemaster of Roper's and ultimately became Third Master. Our thoughts are naturally with Phil's family, and with Howard's, and with all those in the Alleyn's community who have suffered bereavements or difficult times over the past year.

Schools are communities of deep feeling and strong connections, and so it is always a pity when we have to say goodbye to those who leave for pastures new. Temporary staff who are doing so this term are Mrs Alice Martineau (RS), Ms Rosie Turner Mullan (Art), Mrs Kemi Williams (English), and Mr Sam Hoffman (Biology and Chemistry), who after two years maternity cover at Alleyn's takes up a permanent position at St Dunstan's. Mr Barry Keane, a full-time member of the Maths department since 2017, is also leaving, to teach at Jumeirah College in Dubai. We wish all these colleagues all the very best for the future. Earlier in the year, Mrs Charlotte Clift left after 14 years at Alleyn's to teach PE and Games at Bromley High; and of course Reverend Anthony

Buckley, who after ten great years as Chaplain and teacher of History left to become City Rector and Vicar of St Michael at the Northgate, Oxford. You will be pleased to know that Anthony is with us at Founder's Day today, not least to enjoy a nice sit down on the benches donated by the APA in the quiet space by the Astro turf, adorned with some of his favourite quotations. No prizes for guessing from whom!

Each year we also say goodbye and thank you to a number of brilliant support staff colleagues who individually and collectively make such a difference to the School and all its work. I should like specifically to mention Mrs Gemma Birt, Assistant Chaplain, who joined in 2016 and now leaves us to train for full-time ordained ministry; and Mr Robert Holden AOBG, an Honorary Archivist for the past ten years who now retires – though knowing Robert and his work *inter alia* at the Cinema Museum and as Santa Claus in Dulwich Park each year, it will only be retirement in the very loosest sense.

Two members of the permanent teaching staff are also taking retirement this year. Mrs Mia Pellow joined in 2000 as a Language Assistant and has both taught in the Junior School and supported Senior School pupils for the past 19 years – an impressive stint by any reckoning. That said, Miss Marilyn Walker now retires after a stupendous 40 years at Alleyn's. Marilyn joined the School in 1979 as "Assistant Mistress in the PE department combined with some work in the Modern Languages department" and went on to become Director of Sport for 20 years, a post she stood down from in 2007 to enjoy teaching part-time and volunteering in club hockey and athletics. She has been a magnificent, much-loved and irreplaceable asset to the School and to generations of pupils. I should like us now to honour both Marilyn and Mia with valedictory gifts as a token of our sincere thanks and very best wishes for the future.

All that remains for me to do, before the prize-giving begins, is publicly to thank several people for their superb support of the School this year. First the Chairman, Mr Iain Barbour, and to the Governing Board for all their encouragement and guidance

to me and my colleagues on the Senior Management Team. In particular, I should like to thank Mr Iain Pulley, who is stepping down after 11 years as a deeply committed and supportive Governor – though true to form he has agreed to continue on a couple of important sub-committees, where his knowledge and experience is greatly appreciated. (I should add that Iain represents the Saddlers' Company on the Board and will be replaced by Mr Charlie Barclay, a former Prime Warden of the Company and a teacher of Physics and Astronomy at Marlborough College in Wiltshire.) We look forward to welcoming Charlie, and also Ms Helen Thomas-Feeney AOBG, BBC Newsnight's Business Editor, when they both join the Board next term.

I should also like to thank the Dulwich Estate, its Chairman Nicola Meredith and Chief Executive Simone Crofton, who have been working so hard to support all the beneficiaries in this 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundation. (Please go and visit the special exhibition in the Linley Room of the Dulwich Picture Gallery over the summer, and be sure to see the first six of what will be 12 special exhibition boards charting our School history since 1619, which School Archivist Nicola Waddington has put her heart and soul into over the past year, as well as the fantastic display of Jacobean objects from the Cumin Museum in the School Foyer and Reception, which have been chosen and curated by Year 12 students.) We are also indebted to the Wardens and Court of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, particularly the Prime Warden, Mr James Welch, and the Clerk, Brigadier Philip Napier. My grateful thanks, too, to the ever-supportive Alleyn's Parents Association, its Committee and Chair, Anna Wille, Vice Chair, Lucy Corrin, Treasurer, Ros Walton and Secretary, Catherine Gardiner, all of whom step down next term after years of energetic support and enthusiasm; and to our alumni in the Edward Alleyn Club, led by Chairman Paul Barber and current Honorary President Lord Kakkar. Thank you all, very much indeed.

My thanks, too, to the amazing teaching staff here behind me, who have maintained a mien of dignified attention throughout, no doubt; and above all to our wonderful

pupils and students, who are the Alpha and Omega of the whole enterprise. I should like to congratulate each and every prize-winner here today, in addition to the community as a whole, all of whom, every year, contribute to the collective good while pursuing their own journeys with all our support. Particular thanks to all the House Captains, Senior Prefects and Lower School Prefects, to Vice Captains Sascha Pollock and Tom Cahill, and to School Captain Caitlin Leithead, from whom we shall hear more shortly. They have been a brilliant part of a lovely cohort, and we shall miss them all, until the next time - for they will always be sincerely welcome at their old School.

It remains only for me to thank you all for being with us here today, sharing in the success of our prize-winners and of the School whose ethos, values and outlook create the climate in which such prizes can be sought and cherished, not in a dog-eat-dog arena of rabid individualism but in a deeper culture of mutual endeavour and respect for everyone, whatever their gifts and challenges; for this School is committed to diversity and to empathy in equal measure as part of a civilised response to an at times difficult world, which is why we have proudly flown the Pride flag from the main building all this week in support of Pride month, and why today we are flying the flag designed by the artist Ai Weiwei to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The flag has a symbol of a footprint, drawing attention to the issue of displaced people due to conflict – over 70 million of them in 2018, all of whom are in our thoughts and prayers today. I do hope that you all have a wonderful Founder’s Day, and a glorious summer. Thank you very much indeed.

