

Good afternoon everyone. As we know, we are here, together, to celebrate.

The prizes awarded today will recognise a number of marvellous achievements throughout the last year. To be stood up at the lectern again is, as always, a pleasure. And, as I'm looking around, I'm seeing a sea of faces, many of which will unfortunately not receive a prize today, and yet are such an important part of our school as a whole. And so, with that in mind, I'd like to share a short passage from a book that's very close to my own heart - George Eliot's *Middlemarch* - as it really captures that same idea of contributing to something larger than merely ourselves;

'[Dorothea's] finely-tuned spirit had still its fine issues, though they were not widely visible. Her full nature, like that river which Cyrus broke the strength, spent itself in channels which had no great name on the earth. But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs'.

Whilst decorating our prize winners today, then, let us also remember the journey by which we have arrived here, together, as not just students nor teachers, but as the LRGS community.

Travis Taylor