

Good morning, this is one of the first opportunities I have had to introduce myself so hello and welcome to you all. I am Poppy Watson and it is a pleasure to welcome you here today as a deputy head of school.

Today is about celebrating successes and we have some fantastic achievements across all years both in the classroom and in the field. I am sure the teachers have had a tough decision selecting just one pupil for each prize. I am proud to be a part of the LRGS community where we can enjoy and celebrate each other's successes. Not only of those winning awards today, but to all the amazing students who push themselves each and every day that walk up the hill under the guidance and support of Dr Pyle, the teachers and staff here at LRGS. There is much to be proud of and Covid-19 has only served to strengthen our spirit.

This morning, we can reflect not only on the successes but also on the hours, days and months of effort, work and determination that we don't see behind the scenes. And I would like to take a moment to share some famous examples.

5,126. This is the number of failed prototypes that Sir James Dyson produced over decades before finally creating the bagless vacuum cleaner we now know so well.

Thomas Edison who invented the lightbulb, deemed a failure in school, pursued his obsession and passion for inventing throughout his life. He is famously quoted as saying;

I have not failed 10,000 times – I've successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work

Michael Jordan, if he needs any introduction at all, is one of the best ever basketball players said;

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

Whether a passion for cleaner carpets or consistent slam dunking is the goal, with passion and determination, and hopefully a few less than 10,000 failures, we can find our very own success.

Well done to those who have won prizes today. To the rest, do what you do, enjoy what you do and never give up. Well done to each and every one of you today.