

Thank you, Sir Peter for presenting the prizes.

I would now like to introduce to you our guest speaker today Sir Peter John Ratcliffe.

Sir Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Science and is a Nobel Laureate in Medicine he is in fact LRGS's first Nobel Prize winner who trained as a nephrologist. – the specialty study of kidneys.

He was a practicing clinician at the John Radcliffe Hospital, in Oxford and the Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine and head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford from 2004 to 2016.

He has been a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford since 2004 and in 2016 he became Clinical Research Director at the Francis Crick Institute, whilst still retaining a position at Oxford as a member of the Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research and director of the Target Discovery Institute, University of Oxford.

Now before all of that, Sir Peter was born in Morecambe and attended North Road primary school in Carnforth and at age 11, he attended Lancaster Royal Grammar School from 1965 to 1972.

His class mates say he was incredibly quick to grasp things at school and he was also an incredibly quick driver in his mum's Morris 1100 with hand brake turns being his specialty!

Sir Peter is quoted as saying that LRGS was good and undoubtedly the single most formative experience in his education – however there were trials with school meals as in the 1960s schools in the UK were not top of the culinary league and LRGS was NOT the cordon bleu of the day!

From LRGS he won an open scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge to study Medicine and he completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with distinction at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College in 1978.

He spent his time between both Oxford and Cambridge Universities and did additional studies in renal medicine at Oxford University, focusing on renal oxygenation and in 1987 he completed his doctorate and earned a higher Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Cambridge

In 1989, Sir Peter established a laboratory in Oxford University's Nuffield Department of Medicine to explore the regulation of erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone released by the kidneys and responsible for stimulating the production of red blood cells formation.

In 1990, Sir Peter received a Wellcome Trust Senior Fellowship to study cellular responses to hypoxia - the deficiency in the amount of oxygen reaching tissue.

From 1992 to 2004 he was the senior research fellow in clinical medicine at Jesus College, Oxford, and then in 2002, he was accepted into the Academy of Medical

Sciences and was appointed the following year as the Nuffield Professor and head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine at Oxford.

Sir Peter is best known for his work for the discovery of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability for which he shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with William Kaelin Junior and Gregg Semenza. This discovery may lead to new treatments of anemia, cancer and many other diseases.

Sir Peter has received a number of awards, accolades, and honours for his work over the years and he was knighted in the 2014 New Year Honours list for services to clinical medicine.

He is an Old Lancastrian – and our first ever Nobel Prize winner and we are delighted that you are here on this special day.

Sir Peter – it is fantastic for the school that you have agreed to come here today so perhaps it's now time for you to speak to us all as I'm sure everyone will look forward to hearing from you, in particular the boys and girls who want to go into Medicine.

Sir Peter Ratcliffe everyone!