

Good morning everyone, Mr Ogden, Dr Pyle, staff, parents, and of course, the students — it's an honour to stand here today.

I'd like to begin by saying a huge thank you to our guest speaker, Mr Steven Ogden, for joining us today and for sharing his insights.

Hearing about your career and the journey you've taken, it's easy to see how the qualities we talk about so often at LRGS — confidence, hard work, and ambition — have shaped your path.

This school teaches us to look people in the eye, to shake a hand with confidence, and to carry ourselves with purpose — qualities that, I imagine, have helped you at every stage of your career.

Thank you, sir, for reminding us how the values built here can stay with us long after we leave, and for your time — here's a little something...

Speech Day is one of those rare moments that prompts you to stop and reflect — not just on what you've achieved, but on the journey.

LRGS isn't just where you learn about calculus or Shakespeare — it's where you learn about yourself. It's where you figure out what matters to you, where you discover what hard work can achieve, and where you start to grow into the person you'll become.

This school has an incredible way of pushing you and supporting you at the same time. Whether it's on the rugby pitch in the pouring rain, in the middle of a chaotic music rehearsal, or staying late to revise before exams, there's always someone beside you — a teammate, a friend, a teacher — who believes in you a little more than you believe in yourself.

And that's something really special.....

I know that in ten years' time, I'll probably be walking down the high street and bump into one of my old teachers or coaches — and I'll still feel that same connection, that same warmth that has made this place feel like home.

I'm told once part of the LRGS family, you never really stop being part of it.

The incredible list of activities and pupil achievements Dr Pyle shared with us is quite remarkable and I hope a sense of achievement through competition at the highest level continues to be an inspiration at Lancaster Royal Grammar school. From my perspective SPORT has been where we show our heart, commitment, and an incredible sense of belief in one another.

Everything we achieve here, we earn through effort, teamwork, and the quiet confidence that comes from giving your all.

Whether it's out on the sports field or in the classroom, we're all learning that same lesson — that confidence isn't arrogance, it's the belief that if you work hard, lift others, and stay true to yourself, you can make a difference.

That's what this school gives us — the ability to carry ourselves with pride, to lead with humility, and, as our motto says, to lead in order to serve.

And now, before I finish, there's one final — and very important — tradition that must be observed.

Dr Pyle, it is, after all, a Saturday, and I think I speak for everyone here when I say that our loyal service surely deserves a little reward. So, on behalf of the students, I must officially request... a half day holiday!

Thank you again to everyone who makes this school what it is — to the staff, the parents, and to every student who brings energy and heart to LRGS every single day.

It's been a privilege to be part of it. Thank you.

Edward Pearson