Vote of Thanks by the Head of School – Owen

Good morning everyone, Mr Mayor, Mr Dyer, Dr Pyle, staff, parents and students.

I would like to start by thanking Mr Dyer for his inspiring words. I think his experiences and actions reflect the best parts of what the school teaches, and his values ring true as the qualities built here at LRGS. It's safe to say that "Mott the Hoople" will be the first thing I search up this afternoon. Mr Dyer, thank you on behalf of all the students here for the half day off and also for being here today. Here is a small token of our gratitude for you to keep.... [HAND PRESENT].

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Owen and I am head student at LRGS. I joined last year, but in the short time I've been here, I have seen plenty of what Mr Dyer has spoken about: attitudes, motives, character, perseverance and heart. I hope the year 8s will agree and be proud as I talk about where these aspects appear in our school life.

Firstly, attitudes. When I arrived last year, I remember reading a quote from Douglas Cameron, the namesake of the pavilion on the Douthwaite. It said, "how you do anything is how you do everything", and this has just about summed up my LRGS experience. Not just academic, not just extracurricular, but in whatever we do there is a genuine will to learn and improve, and this attitude makes our school ethos special.

Next, motives. To be an LRGS student is to commit to doing your best work and to take pride in the quality of what you do. The people here go about life with a rigorous attention to detail, ambition, and motivation to achieve the goals they set. Here, I meet students who believe they will succeed. No matter what setbacks they meet, they know they have the support and skills they need to keep improving.

LRGS shows its character in its community. We are taught to help people around us, giving support and help to our classmates but also doing our part in Lenten Charities to have an influence in our area. I see our school's character on the sports field, where perseverance and commitment even in a losing fight are the values we hold the highest.

But perseverance shows itself all over the school. Perseverance to answer the hardest questions in class, perseverance to learn that tricky bit of music you're working on, and

perseverance to walk up the single steepest bit of hill imaginable on a cold winter morning are just a few examples of the hard work and commitment shown by our pupils.

But finally, the thing that impressed me most about the school is the heart. People here follow their passion and commit to doing their best at whatever it is they love. Every week, I hear and read about the armchair generals, breakdancers and korfball players who have taken a hobby or interest and committed to it wholeheartedly. Our school is full of dedicated and vibrant characters that make life here exciting and original.

So, thank you again to everyone that works to make our school the amazing place it is. The teachers, governors, parents and students that make our community unique and special. It has been a real privilege to be here this last year, and an honour to have the chance to be up here today. I know that wherever I go, and whatever I do, the influence of my time at LRGS and the people I met here will stay with me always.

Thank you all for your time.