

YEAR 6 GRADUATION ADDRESS

18th JULY 2018

Address by Mrs. L. Cooper (Deputy Headteacher, retired)

Thank you for inviting me to talk to the Year 6s on this their graduation day.

I'm looking around at all the proud Year 6 parents and carers who are here to see this important ceremony of transition from one life stage to another, from primary to secondary school.

This won't be the only transition in your lives. The next will be the end of secondary school into a working life or on to college or university as you enter your adult years. Naturally, you will want to be successful, won't you? Are there any of our Year 6 children who don't want to succeed in their lives? Of course not.

Your families have always done so much for you – they house and clothe you, give you money, buy you gifts and treats. They want to help you so much that sometimes they might even do your homework for you ... maybe? Your families and friends will always want to help you in your lives and there is much they can and will do for you.

However, can they do EVERYTHING for you? Can they write your exams for you? Can they go through a job interview for you? Can they make you successful? No, **you're** the only one who can do that.

My message to you today is a simple one – **You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.**



Think about climbing a ladder. Could you do that without your hands? It's impossible.

What does this mean? The ladder to success isn't an easy one and we don't really know where it leads or ends. Sometimes we slip down and fail at something we try to do. What will you do? Sit at the bottom of the ladder, stick your hands in your pockets and give up?

We all fail on our way to success, but failures should just teach us to be resilient – to get up and get back on that ladder.

Sometimes we'll come across people who want to block our path to the top. Should we just climb down again and give up? No. We wait on the ladder, be patient, work and show the best of ourselves and the opportunity will come when you can carry on that climb. Waiting can be frustrating, but use that time to grow and improve your knowledge and abilities.

I want to wish you all every success in the future and remember.... – **you can't achieve success with your hands in your pockets.**