

Thank you Mr Morris and I must say that as usual it is wonderful to be back here at a Stanley Founders Day event.

It is wholly appropriate that I am here this evening as this is to be the very last presentation evening for Stanley Technical High School.

Many of you may know me from my time as Chair of Governors at the school. At that time the role was a dual one as the Chair of Governors was also the Chair of the William F Stanley Trust at the same time.

In the year 2000 as representative of Stanley I was approached by the Government with a view to changing the status of the school into an Academy. Naturally we were very wary about this approach in the beginning and have undergone an extensive and exhaustive process ever since in an effort to try and ensure that we look after the interests of all current and future pupils in the north of the borough, and that as many of our founders original thoughts are carried forward into the structure and ethos of the proposed new school.

William Stanley's purpose for opening the school was to provide boys educated for a future in industry. He didn't do too badly either did he with many boys going on to become leading politicians and Captains of Industry. We have just moved with the times and followed that thinking into a 21st century environment so that we will be providing young people educated for a future in an IT rich world.

We think we have achieved as much as we can possibly do up to this point but the main issue that is currently outstanding for us is the huge disappointment at the loss of the name Stanley in the school title. We are therefore making contingency plans for an English Heritage blue plaque to be placed on the wall outside of the school entrance and for some of the facilities at the new site to be named after William Stanley.

We will also be continuing to support the new school by providing a trophy in the founders name to be given annually to a pupil for achievement in Information Technology.

I'd like to take this opportunity...as it's one of the few formal situations that I get a chance to say thank you to the teaching and senior staff for their professionalism and commitment to the education of you boys. I'd like to thank you the parents for your support of both the school and your sons when getting to do the homework became a bit of a chore!!! And finally to my colleagues on the governing body and the trustees from the William F Stanley Trust Thank you for the hours of personal time that you give up gladly and without question in order to do the best possible job for the school.

I am so pleased to hear that Stanley has turned the corner and made such a dramatic upturn in its GCSE examinations results.

For a lot of you lads this will probably be the last you will ever see of Stanley, but I do promise you that you will always be a Stanley boy.

You will always remember where you went to school, wherever you are in the world.

So when your children and grand children ask you about your school in years to come, you can say very proudly 'I was a Stanley boy'.

One thing that you will come to realise in the future is that the world survives through change. This is not always comfortable but is generally always a necessity.

Another is that you continue to learn throughout your life. Whatever you choose to do as a job in your future you will I am quite certain still need to continue to learn new skills. Is that right Mr Morris and what about you Mr Shaw.

I am a great believer in the adage that you learn something new every day of your life. However small that may be.

One thing I'd really like to know before I go is whether we have any geniuses here this evening?

Come on don't be shy put your hands up.

OK...I put it to you that everyone here is a genius in their own right and that at some point in your life you will discover where that genius lies. Whether you choose to be a scientist, policeman, teacher, sport or music star or whatever, at some time you will find your niche. It just needs a bit of hard work in the right direction plus a bit of perseverance and a fair amount of good fortune too of course. Please make yourself a

promise here and now. Never ever give up and say to yourself I am not good enough...I promise you that you can do whatever you set out too

Well enough of my preaching it's now time to move on with the main purpose of the evening the presentation of the awards.

I give you all my wholehearted congratulations on your achievements and wish you all the very best of good fortune in your future lives.

Mr Morris I think it's time to get back to you.