

Phew! Where did that summer go?



Well, you might call it summer.

At least as far as this country is concerned, it was a lacklustre summer by way of actual sunshine, and the rain thought it was in the month of April. However bad the weather, it all passed very quickly, as I am sure you will agree.

And so we come again to the nitty-gritty, the subject of young people and their development from small and dependent children to mature and independent adults. For all of them it is a journey which they must undertake and for a while, we here are their guides, teachers, role-models, friends, partners, and we are also in loco parentis.

The list of those actively involved is very long. Teachers and Head Teachers (yes, I am expecting to work with at least two this school year!) and learning support staff and administrators and cleaners and lunch-time supervisors and school meal providers and parents and governors are all involved and in it and sometimes, up to the neck!

In all the detail and bustle and worry and stress involved in school life, I want to start the year by asking you to remember and be proud of what an important role you have. Teachers do work miracles, and on a daily basis. And I also want to hold before you for a short time the end result which we are all aiming for- that is the development of young lives. People often criticise schools these days, but I see such a huge amount of success coming out of schools, including of course our own school.



The success is often won against serious odds – such as difficult home lives for children, other less worthy role-models, the difficulties of learning in a technological age when so much entertainment is laid on a plate, or a DS or an I-pad. The work of learning in a classroom is not easy and schools have such a lot of counter-attractions to compete with. Similarly, the work of teaching reflects these difficulties.

However, I want to encourage you now to be optimistic, buoyant and proud of your work every day. In the darker moments, if indeed you ever have any, think about how the adult lives of the children will in future benefit from your dedicated work and enjoy this foretaste of their success in life as a current mark of your own.