Year 11 Prize-Giving Assembly.

There is a phenomenon in Year 11 which starts around February and is probably continuing today. It consists of students fondly reminiscing about their primary school experiences, usually, I suspect, through rose-tinted spectacles, wishing again for its simplicity. Whenever this breaks out in my classroom, I advise the students that they would be bored with such an existence now, but they seem content to be faced with easier sums and seemingly endless playtimes.

You would be bored, of course, because life moves on, *but not always at a pace we are comfortable with*. Many of you will be unsure as to what it is you want to do in the future, but certain it does not include either Shakespeare or poetry!

You all face your biggest academic challenge, so far, and it requires hard work and determination in a way that nothing has before. It will be worth it. You will be able to move to the third stage of your education, and then the fourth, university.

In some ways, today represents a mid-way point. Five years down and, for most, five to go. Primary school will become a distant memory, but, oh!, those endless playtimes…

It goes without saying that I wish you well in the forthcoming examinations.

And so, we turn our attention to the prizes. I think that it is vital to acknowledge the contribution made by you in your subjects. The prizes are awarded not only for ability, but also for effort, which is no less important.