

# THE HIVE

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## A ROUND UP TO AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR...



*With the long stretch of a summer ahead, we reflect on the past year... and what a phenomenal, unexpected year it has been.*

When we adults think of children, there is a simple truth that we ignore: childhood is not a preparation for life, childhood is life.

The child is constantly confronted with the nagging question "what are you going to be"?

Courageous would be the youngster who, looking the adult squarely in the face, would say: "I'm not going to be anything. I already am".

At St Bees we are walking a unique road. This road begins in a different location to the roads followed by other schools. For us it starts with the simple premiss that our students have potential which in their earlier years has not yet been fully developed.

Instead of treating our students like empty vessels which need to be filled with facts and information, we develop their character which in turn develops their maturity and which in turn expands their capacity to fulfil their potential.

Their growth in maturity drives their every sphere of life, including the academic dimension.

The latest GAP presentation – extracts from which form part of this Speech Day programme – clearly show the journey towards this maturity which has taken place this year. In so many ways they are living, breathing examples of the wise words: "Be the change you wish to see in the world".

At the time of writing this introduction to the school's 2020 Speech Day we find ourselves in the midst of substantial social upheaval. The Black Lives Matter movement coupled with the seismic upheavals caused by Covid-19, its impact on our future lifestyles and a rapidly changing world order all should point us in one direction: preparing our St Bees students to cope with the full range of challenges the future will bring, and to be the movers and shakers in the global world of tomorrow.

Over the weeks, the months and

the years to come we will be leading our students to develop deeper understandings instead of simplistic solutions - understandings of themselves, each other and of the world in which they live. The journey goes on.

"I already am, but throughout my school years I will deepen, broaden, extend and expand to become the best I can be". Our students are reminded that they will have more than 35 new 'friends' in September and that their role is to carry the flame and be shining examples to them about what it means to be a St Bees student.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to the huge efforts of the St Bees School teachers for ensuring a seamless online learning programme during the long weeks of lockdown, to our senior leadership team for providing the online infrastructure and to the parents who have supported us every step of the way. Despite the obvious challenges at the end of this academic year, we have much to celebrate!

**- Roger Sinnett, Headmaster**