

'We are proud of each and every one of you'

Prizes handed out to pupils

ABERDEENSHIRE Council's chief executive Jim Savege was The Gordon Schools' prizegiving guest speaker and he urged pupils at all levels to work hard.

Mr Savege outlined the career path which had taken him to his current position as head of the authority.

He said he had learned that it is important to work hard at what you are good at and at all times have integrity.

His message was not just aimed at school leavers but those who will return to classes in August and he said it was important to believe in what you can do and show grit and determination.

He said: "Prizegivings such as this are a superb celebration of achievements. It is important to just stop and celebrate with pride and humility how well people are doing."

Mr Savege presented awards as follows:

Year 3: Prize for chemical perspicacity - Matilda Haley; Most improved in English - Cameron Cruickshank; Enterprise in maths - Magnus McIntosh.

Year 4: PE - Lewis Buxton; metalwork - Calum Christie; RMPS and geography - Grant Christie; computing - Sara Douglas; woodworking - Sophie Dunbar; graphic communication - Angus Duncan; English, history, art - Hazel Gardner; art - Mhairi Griffin; modern studies - Roddy Howe; business

management - Lucy McCall-Smith; excellence in German and history - Josephine McLeod; most improved in English and music prize - Angus Montgomery; Lifeskills maths - Lizzie Montgomery; German - Stephanie Norris; chemistry, English, maths, physics, engineering science, modern languages - Felix Roberts; chemistry, biology, music - Flossie Roberts; modern studies - Lauren Smith; hospitality - Daisy Willcocks.

Years 5 and 6: Business management - Lucy Alexander; media studies - Millie Catto; Biology - Ryan Clark; administration - Bethany Rose Cross; German - Jessica Driver; history - Lisa Duffus; drama - Cerys Ghandi; administration - Yasmine Gattouchi; PE - Kieran Geddes; art and design - Jordan Gillespie; engineering science - Kit Habiby; graphic communication - Grace Heyman; French - Rebecca Hinton; Spanish - Brooke Howie; hospitality - Megan Hunter; modern languages effort - Ciaran McGowan; hospitality - Sandy McLaughlin; art and design - Hannah Michie; maths, chemistry, biology, English - Finlay Munro; physics - Simon Norris; media studies and modern studies - Angus Pope; history - Andrew Raeburn; music - Carolyn Thomson; geography - Sakia Walden; physics - Robyn Watt; drama - Kai Welford; woodworking - Jake Wilson; Computing - Aidan Wood.

Advanced Highers: modern studies - Megan Hunter; maths, biology, chemistry - Ebony Martin; art portfolio - Calum Mitchell; History - Angus Pope; geography - Kirsty Webster; English - Jenny Wilson; physics - Aidan Wood.

Sports awards: athletics - Laura Grant; hockey - Stephanie Norris; volleyball - Rachel Coffey and Owen Davies; football - Kieran Geddes; sportsmanship and scholarship - Stephanie Norris; sport - Jack Craib.

Special awards: creativity - Lewis Blockley and Charlotte Harrison; Deveron Arts Award - Hannah Taylor; music contest - Lexie Habiby, Flossie Roberts; musical excellence - Esther Smith; Rotary Club talents award - Brodie Murray and Albert Lucas; maths challenge - John Cruickshank, Laura Taylor and Charlotte Harrison; Consulate prize for German - Carolyn Thomson; Don Smith Award - Emma Blakely; outstanding effort - Stephanie Norris and Grant Christie; endeavour - Laura Taylor; personal achievement - Stuart Beattie and Calvin McWilliam; debating - Theo Brill; Service to The

Gordon Schools - Rachel Coffey and Charlotte Harrison; achievement - Kirsty Webster; citizenship awards - Martin Burr and Sarah Smithies; highly commended - Ashleigh Christie and

John Dalmon; enterprise - Adam McGowan, Sandy McLaughlin, Louise Morrison, Charlotte Harrison, Angus Pope and Harris Williamson; student of excellence - Aidan Wood; leadership

- Adam McGowan, Rebecca Hamilton, Ebony Martin and Angus Pope; merit student of the year - Jessica Howe; Dux - Aidan Wood; runners-up Ebony Martin and Angus Pope.



By Pat Scott

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IN the final prizegiving address of his teaching career, Gordon Schools rector Zander Hall, who retires in August placed on record the personal and professional significance of his time in the post.

Mr Hall said the school was held in high regard, evidenced by the way parents, pupils, staff and the wider community come together for events such as the prizegiving.

He said: "The feeling of pride and privilege at being part of a school community that does so much for so many Aberdeenshire youngsters never leaves me and never will. You are what makes The Gordon Schools the school it is and will continue to be."

He continued: "Tonight is about celebrating the achievements of our pupils and how proud we are of each and every one of you.

"This is your night and to your parents and carers I extend a very warm welcome and a word of congratulations too. Your support and encouragement plays a pivotal role in the journey your children take through school. We are very proud to make

Retiring Gordon Schools rector Zander Hall. Picture: Lyn MacDonald. Image No. 029672

public our recognition of the efforts of our youngsters."

He reflected on a very busy and productive year in which he said pupil successes and achievements continued to shine brightly.

He said: "Excellence in sport, music, arts and cultural activities continue to bring colour and excitement to school life and our pupils are a credit to themselves and their parents/guardians.

"Credit must also be given to the many staff in school and community helpers, who willingly give their time to nurture, support and develop the range of talent.

"I wish, at the very outset, to formally acknowledge their priceless input. They are at the very heart of the success of our young people; they facilitate, inspire, encourage, motivate, enthuse and empower - they help define who and what we are as a school and help ensure that your children get the very best out of their time here at The Gordon Schools."

Reflecting on his career, Mr Hall said: "I have tried to serve our communities well, giving back, hopefully, a small fraction of the time, effort and inputs offered me through childhood and into adult life.

"Working in schools has been a privilege. The relationships and friendships built up over the years have moulded my person and are long lasting.

"As an education service and school we are moving in to exciting times in our support for young people and part of me will miss being involved.

"I am, however, confident that the futures of pupils in The Gordon Schools are in good hands and you will continue to serve them well."

Addressing pupils about to leave school, he said: "As pupils of The Gordon Schools, you have had an excellent education in its widest sense and are now well prepared to take your place in adult life and to make a difference.

"You are our future. You can either be daunted by that or see it as a huge challenge and a massive opportunity.

"I think, despite the challenges we all face - in the global economy and with the global environment - we have reason to be optimistic.

"There is a wonderful world out there, rich with opportunities and experiences and ways for you to make a difference to your own lives and to the lives of others.

"There is so much you can do and I urge you all to 'go for it', walk tall, be confident and aim as high as your imagination will take you.

"Let us hope more than anything that the successes we honour today are just a taste of all the great things that are still to come."