



New Shoes Year 6 Leavers' Speech 2020

Class of 2020 - the rainbow children as we At OLST now like to call you! You have been through a school year the likes of which we have never seen before and probably never will again. A year which has seen you having to leave your school and your friends behind to spend week upon week at home, in order that you and everyone around you can keep safe from an unseen but deadly enemy. Very sadly, you had to give up the idea of sitting your SATs - I know,

heart breaking right? 😊 You had to motivate yourself to work at home which isn't easy - believe me- I know! AND - worst of all - you had to put up with mums and dads trying to explain the methods that THEY would use to solve the multiplication of fractions when you know fine well that the last time ~~that~~ method was used was way back in the dark ages! However, today, we aren't going to think about that time - COVID 19 has taken too much of your last year of OLST away and so it is not going to take any more - today is not about COVID - it is about you.

Now as you will all know, I love shoes, particularly very high, very shiny shoes! They are my absolute favourite type and are the shoes I will choose every time I want to cheer myself up or give myself a confidence boost. I have shoes in my wardrobe that have been there since even before I got married 30 years ago - shoes that are now just that bit TOO high or a bit TOO flamboyant for an old lady like me but they are still there are the back of my wardrobe because I can't bear to part with them and every so often, just occasionally, I still wear some of them!

I suppose that you are wondering what on earth I am rambling on about shoes for. What on earth do my shoes have to do with you leaving OLST for your next school? Well, as a matter of fact, they have a lot to do with it. Let's take a few minutes to think about the last seven years -the amount of time you have spent at Primary school - some of you always at OLST and some of you joining us at various other times.

For you, OLST has been a comfortable pair of shoes that has served you well. OLST has given you the confidence to walk tall just like a pair of very high and shiny stilettos; OLST has given you the reassurance of a sturdy Dr Marten boot, supporting you when the going gets tough; OLST has given you the freedom to make choices, just like a pair of flip flops that give your toes the freedom to wiggle free in the Summer; OLST has given you the chance to run and jump and play just like a pair of great trainers; OLST has taught you that to be flexible and kind hearted, creating beautiful magic just like the finest pair of ballet slippers does for a Prima Ballerina; OLST has given you the ability to express your opinion in a way that does not offend others like a fabulous pair of Vans or Converse. OLST is in effect, like a shoe shop where the range of shoes is eye watering and caters for the many, individual choices people make when choosing their shoes. OLST has offered YOU the chance to choose which shoes you walk in; OLST has taught you that to change shoes is okay and that other people's choices - whilst different from yours - are okay too.

For most of the time, your journey through primary school has been like wearing a cosy, comfortable pair of old shoes. You know - the type that mould to the shape of your feet and are your go-to pair when you need ultimate comfort. You slip on these shoes when you need to feel safe -you know they fit you and won't give you blisters; you slip on these shoes when you need the reassurance that they will support your ankles and protect your toes; you slip on these shoes when you want the faithful company of an old friend. They are the shoes that you can't bear to throw away and even now they are growing too small for you, you are really loathe to leave them for a new pair.

This is a time of great change for you Y6 - a time when you are due to transition from one part of your education to another - an anxious time for anyone at the best of times. It is the time when that cosy, comfy pair of shoes which have been your best friend for so long and been with you through some important times, now no longer fit. You can't bear to part with them so they will sit in the back of your wardrobe forever, but it is now time for a new pair.



Class of 2020 - The Rainbow Children

Of course, there will be anxiety - what if you can't find the right new pair? What if they aren't supportive enough or worse still, what if other people laugh at your choice? But hang on - what if the new pair give you an extra spring in your step? Allow you to face challenges that you didn't think you could master? Introduce you to a whole new group of people who like the same kind of shoes you do? Help you to walk in a different direction?

That, my rainbow children, is what transition from the old into the new is like. You don't want to let go of the past because it is dear to you and you are filled with anxiety but strangely excited to face the new. What you have learned at OLST is that it is okay to be you - You ARE unique, you ARE talented and most of all, you ARE loved by God. It is time to part from us - we have prepared you for this - You will never **leave** us because you are part of us, just as we are part of you. We are the cosy comfy shoes which have served you well but now it is time for us to retire to the back of the wardrobe and let you try on your new shoes, whichever ones you pick. Allow yourself the time to break your new life in, stick with it until it becomes less new and less shiny and once more a cosy and comfortable fit.

Y6 - You are ready to walk a new path and find a new direction. Your old shoes have got you this far and supported you through all the bumps in the road but that path is now walked and a new one awaits. Just as Paulo Nutini sang in the track you heard on your slideshow:

'I put my new shoes on and suddenly everything is right'

It is time for you to put your new shoes on and take a big step forward.....

.... And you will find that everything IS just right!

WITH MY VERY BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL,

Mrs Fulton

17th July 2020