



“Knight pays a visit to ambitious teens”

Year 9 students at the Frederick Gough School enjoyed an assembly with a difference, when education entrepreneur and former student Sir Peter Birkett returned to the school to encourage all students to aim high, be respectful, work hard and reach their goals.

During what is an important year for the students, Sir Peter discussed how best they should make their year 10 options and explained how experience of broader subjects, dedication, resilience, belief, kindness, forgiveness and common sense were essential qualities in life.

He shared his own memories of childhood and said that how coming from a working class background had encouraged him to work hard and inspired him to help others in similar circumstances to achieve their goals.

Sir Peter reassured students that it wasn't vital to know now what they want to do when leaving school but it was important to have the foundations to adapt to a chosen career - meaning the essential qualifications which open doors and create security. He said “qualifications are important, priceless and something to be proud of and cannot ever be taken away from you.”

Mick Dalton, Deputy Head of Frederick Gough said, "We are very appreciative that Sir Peter takes the time to visit his former school and offer his support. Today he led an assembly with Year 9 students about their forthcoming option choices. His message was to take advantage of the information, advice and guidance at school to make informed decisions. He also stressed the importance of English and Maths qualifications and spoke with students about the School's Optimum Curriculum which focuses on employability skills and qualities. Sir Peter is returning to Frederick Gough School in March to lead the Year 11 Challenge Day."

Former student Sir Peter Birkett said, “I have visited many schools and am continually impressed by the great strides that Frederick Gough has made over the last few years in so many respects. The children are confident and courteous and there is an ethos of “positive can do” amongst all staff. Last year was a record breaking year for the school boasting a 69% 5 A*-C GCSE including English and Maths grades (10% above the national average). In addition, over the last two years more than £13 million has been invested in improving buildings and facilities for students creating some of the very best in the country.”