

Youth Engagement Scheme - Graduation  
Leatherhead Fire Station, 18 May

Distinguished guests and Graduates; yes, think about that for a moment, you are all now graduates - and from as tough a training regime as anyone your age has faced so far in their lives! As your High Sheriff, and a Trustee of the High Sheriff Youth Awards, many congratulations - you are all perfect examples of the sort of results that are possible when professional, dedicated volunteers, work with keen and talented students. I bet not long ago you would never have thought that we would all be saying that about you!

On behalf of the Vice-Chair of Surrey County Council (who cannot be with us ) and everyone across the county, I would like to thank Mark, Bryn, Steve - and all of the many inspirational volunteers from Surrey Fire and Rescue, and our friends from Surrey Police, - we all congratulate you on your terrific work with this amazing Scheme.

And to our many supporters at and friends at Surrey County Council, and of course at Mole Valley and Tandridge District Councils, sincere thanks to you - without your help, this would not be possible.

Graduates, this is your day - your family, friends and teachers all join me in our admiration for what you have achieved, and the great personal advancements you have all made over the week. Not only have you learnt basic fire-fighting skills, it is quite obvious to everyone that other lessons in teamwork, leadership and respect have also played a huge part.

We are all proud of you - the mission statement for this Scheme is 'Together We Can' - well graduates, 'Together You All Have!

Well done!