

Reflections

Hopeful lights

THE A-Level results have brought good news to many and disappointments to some.

I had the opportunity to meet a couple of youngsters, one in the afternoon with higher grade and the other in the evening with a lower grade. During my conversation with both of them I shared the inspiring quote by Winston Churchill, 'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts'.

Big decisions are in front of them; to choose between pursuing university studies, an apprenticeship, a diploma, foundation degree or internship, a straight to work scheme or re-sit. Whatever they decide, they need to be empowered and inspired so that they can advance courageously in their ambition to be productive and valuable members of their family and society.

As a society and family, let us not forget the increasing level of pressure on our youngsters caused by their hormonal change, social networks, peer pressure and digital dust.

Schools and colleges have been the second home for many so far. But now, the inevitable change of



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environment will crank up the pressure to create another location, a home with newer friendship and relationship. All these can force on them waywardness, smoking, truancy, alcoholism, drugs, crime and pregnancy.

The recent report by Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) reflects the impact of such pressures on the income and employment of our youngsters in their later life. This leads them to poor economic independence and lower success.

We all have a duty of care and responsibility to their well being and good endeavours. Today's youth are tomorrow's hope. Hope assures possibilities of light despite all darkness.

Therefore, let us give the right support to reduce the pressures so that our youngsters become hopeful lights. "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord" (Psalm 31:24).