

After this, Kevan took up his post as the first Director of Children's Services in the
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leader, but also as someone who thinks deeply – and has the evidence – about how to solve some of the most intractable problems in education: the long tail of underachievement, the link between social disadvantage and low attainment, and how to teach all children to read.

“England’s education system is not broken,” he is quoted as saying. “England has a good education system, but it is not yet good enough for everybody.”

Today's ceremony is a celebration of the educational achievements of the Graduands gathered here today - many of whom I am sure will go on to achieve great things themselves. We are fortunate that in Sir Kevan we have a champion of educational opportunity for those less fortunate in society, so they too can fulfil their life's potential.

Chancellor, I present Sir Kevan Collins, to receive the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

(c) Professor Steve Higgins