

**First Assembly – September 2020**

Advancing or retreating in unison, the phalanx provided both defensive wall and an almost unstoppable attack. The phalanx was dependent on the effective use of the Spartan shield, called an *aspis*.

It was clad in bronze and was revered in the Spartan culture. Each warrior was expected to protect his shield with his life and it represented his identity as a warrior. When a Spartan mother sent her son off





So my message this morning is that we have to fight as a team. We have to hold the integrity of the phalanx.

My first word this morning was positivity - ngvøu"nqqm"hqt yct f"kp"j qrg"cpf"ugk|g"gxgt{"qr rqtvwpkv{"vjg" year ahead presents. My second word was kindness - ngvøu"look after each other and make sure that each of us is as strong and as happy as we can be. My last word is solidarity. We have to be strong together as a team, working for others, ensuring that each of us serves the good of us all.

A new year lies before us, gentlemen. May it be one of great happiness and great success.