

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 7 Summer term letter**

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you and your children have managed to get into the great outdoors and enjoy the week of sunshine that has graced the half term. I have spent my week enjoying socially distanced 1-1 catch-ups with friends, and I've certainly found lots of new local walking trails that I hadn't uncovered before!

As many of you will be aware, Mrs Vaughan has now left the school to take on a new and exciting challenge. I would like to take this opportunity to say hello and to introduce myself to you as the new Head of Year moving forwards. At The Holt our Heads of Year move up the school with the students, so this provides me with the fantastic opportunity to really get to know all of the girls. I look forward to supporting them and sharing in their successes in the years to come. I have worked at The Holt now for 5 years as a Biology teacher, therefore any student with siblings that have passed through the school may already know me in this capacity. I have been Head of Weavers house for 3 years so anyone in 7W will already know me quite well too.

All of our teachers have been busily working away behind the scenes to ensure that our lessons are adapted for the remote learning environment we find ourselves in. In the table below you will find a brief outline of the content that will be covered this half term:

Subject	Lesson content / topics that will be taught
English	Students will be picking up a Shakespeare unit that was started prior to the KS3 exams. Some classes are exploring the ways in which women are presented in Shakespeare plays, whilst other classes are studying The Merchant of Venice. In addition, 'Task Banks' have been specifically created to help develop the student's wider skills in English. There is also an exciting opportunity coming up named 'Generation Lockdown' where students are going to be asked to write stories about their experience of lockdown. Teachers will be selecting some of these stories to enter a National Writing Competition.
Maths	The Maths Department will be continuing to set work via MathsWatch and will be covering topics such as arithmetic; circles; measuring and constructing angles; and ratio and proportion.
Science	Students will be exploring 2 new topics: Reproduction and Thermal Physics. In Reproduction subtopics such as puberty, the menstrual cycle, and birth will be covered; whereas in Thermal Physics they will be looking at the conduction of heat and thermal radiation. Science use worksheets and PowerPoint presentations alongside various online platforms, such as Kerboodle and Seneca, to engage students in remote learning.
French	Students will continue to develop their language skills that they would need on a holiday in France. To supplement this, there will also be a poetry lesson, a virtual tour around Paris, and a small project to complete about Bastille Day (a very important part of French culture).
Geography	Lessons will contain elements of physical and human geography, from learning about the weather (how to measure and forecast the weather, understanding how rain is formed, and researching a case study on extreme weather) to looking at the impacts of tourism in Thailand. There will be an opportunity for students to plan their own holiday to Thailand at the end of the topic!

History	Year 7 will be studying some key milestones in the development of England. The Magna Carta and the Provisions of Oxford will be covered. Once these are complete the students will be looking at something very topical – a global pandemic! They will be specifically focussing on The Black Death and how it changed England.
Computing	Students will be recapping online safety, something ever important in the current climate, before giving students a brief introduction to artificial intelligence and machine learning.
Art	Students will be carrying on with their theme of Colour and Marking, specifically using birds and insects as inspiration. The Art Department are keen to incorporate the development of a range of skills into lessons.
Drama	The Kneehigh Practitioner Project are a theatre company who incorporate puppets, music, and dance into their productions, and the drama department are going to guide students to study their style of performance and use this as inspiration for students to ultimately create their own songs, puppets, and dance from home, to amalgamate into a home production.
Music	Students will be focusing on composition by using some online software to develop student's theory and composition skills in different styles.
PE	Teachers will be continuing to guide students to exercise from home with a new booklet being issued giving them ideas from fitness games, to challenges, to new fitness videos they might like to try.

*Kennedy and Mrs Katie Pearce*

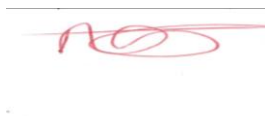
As a part of the Holt's ongoing commitment to global education we will continue with the global morning planned to take place this term by setting some remote lessons on global topics. This will be in place of your daughter's usual lessons on this day. The biggest global topic in the news without a doubt is the current Covid-19 crisis. Activities will focus on the positive outcomes of the pandemic e.g. communities working together but will also allow student the opportunity to think critically about the statistics shared by the media. More information will follow later this half term.

There are many exciting opportunities outlined above, highlighting an extremely diverse array of lessons that really do have 'something for everyone'. I hope your daughter/s find that some of these challenges really spark their love of learning and help to promote an independent curiosity.

Please do also remind the girls that their teachers are there to help. A quick email to a teacher to clarify a point of confusion (using the correct email etiquette of course) may assist enormously in their remote learning. This current situation really does promote the character traits that we nurture in school. The students are having to build their resilience to adapt to new and changing situations, and I have been extremely impressed with their capacity to not only accept change but to thrive with it too.

I am really looking forward to getting to know your daughters. I sent a video message this afternoon and look forward to meeting them in person when school re-opens. Meanwhile if you have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact me on: [Year7team@holt.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Year7team@holt.wokingham.sch.uk)

With best wishes,



Miss N Izod  
 Head of Year 7