

17th December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Year 7

We have reached the end of the Year 7's first term at The Holt, and this seems like a good time to reflect on their achievements so far. I am very proud of the many activities that they have embraced since joining the school. I have been so impressed by the girls and how they show enthusiasm for everything they do. During our trip to Ufton Court, the girls took on the challenges and team building with a happy disposition. Despite it being a cold day, the sun came out and this enabled us to enjoy the activities that were prepared for us. I was especially proud of the teamwork that I witnessed. All the teams were able to ensure that they communicated with each other, and they participated well in all of the activities. It was a great day to observe the friendships develop and to see how well they were able to manage the problem solving.

A highlight of this term was when I attended the Year 7 music concert, which was arranged by Mr Gray. I was able to see most of the year group sing together. All forms had been practising in their lessons, and it was an outstanding contribution from all. I really enjoyed watching the solo performances, and also listening to the girls' choir perform. This evening was attended by so many parents, and it so good to see the involvement and support from home.

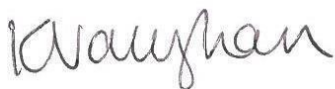
Additionally, Year 7 have done a fantastic job helping with the annual Christmas Fayre. They enthusiastically offered to man the stalls for their Houses and really enjoyed looking around at the variety of Christmas stalls on offer as they were able to attend the fayre period 5, there were many cuddly toys rehomed and lots of chocolate consumed!

We celebrated our first presentation assembly this morning feeling very festive with many of the students dressed in their Christmas jumpers and accessories. Presentation assemblies are where hard work, curiosity, perseverance and growth mind set are celebrated, and the students who receive certificates come up on to the school stage to receive them. At this point they shake the hand of one of our Co-Head teachers or Assistant Head teachers. These could be certificates from the subjects, their form tutor, recognition logs or sporting achievements. I was very impressed by the talent and bravery of our musical performers Sophia, Krista, Amirah, Nithya, Leila-Rose, Izzy and Niamh. We also had talks from Amber, Tobi, Chloe, Isla and China on their reflections of their first term at The Holt, our visit to Ufton Court, and how rewarding joining the variety of school sports teams has been. It takes great courage to perform in front of your peers and all the students did a fantastic job.

As the first term comes to a close, I am pleased with the attendance figures overall. As a year group, our attendance is 97.9%, which is excellent. In this first term, a few days off with a cough or cold has a big impact on your daughter's attendance figure, but I am sure as the weather improves in the new year this will improve. Year 7 have had a great start to their secondary school career and I could not be more happy with how well they have settled, made friends, and embraced any challenges that have come their way.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone back in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Vaughan
Head of Year 7