

19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Year 9**

As Christmas fast approaches we can look back on yet another busy term. Year 9 continue to be an amazing year group and always impress me with their enthusiasm, good behaviour and fabulous attitude to learning. Our recent presentation assembly was a perfect example of this. The sheer number of certificates that Year 9 was awarded was impressive. Some were awarded for academic achievement and progress in lessons but others were awarded for demonstrating a growth mindset, outstanding contributions to their tutor groups and also additional activities that they have been involved in, for example, achieving sporting colours for their participation and contributions to sports teams, and reading challenges.

I want to say thank you to those students who performed in the presentation assembly. This really makes the assembly special and it is the part that I enjoy the most; being able to give a speech or perform in front of 210 of your peers and numerous teachers is a big achievement. It takes courage, resilience and is a very important skill which will be helpful in later life. Thank you again to, Daisy, Sidney, Liel, Ananya, Maddi, Milene, Honor, Emma, Isabelle, Olivia and Zanira.

We have had some sporting success in Year 9 this term. The Netball A team came runners up in the Year 9 Wokingham netball SWIFT league 2019 which was a tough competition amongst schools in the local area. Miss Elford said that their game play was fantastic and the team spirit amongst them was amazing. They gave so much support and guidance to one another. She added that each girl in the team has worked incredibly hard and they are an absolute pleasure to coach each week. To top things off, the team went to a tournament with the other Wokingham schools and they won the whole competition which was incredible! Miss Elford would also like to congratulate the year 9 B team who came 5<sup>th</sup>. They also performed to very high standard being the only B team amongst all of the A teams in their particular league, they should very proud of themselves.

In addition, a group of students were lucky enough to attend a trip to Microsoft. I have seen the photos and it looks like they had an amazing day. I believe the swings that Microsoft sometimes use for meetings were incredibly popular and I have heard lots of enthusiasm for their virtual reality Holo lens; it sounds like the girls had fun trying this out.

The girls have worked very hard this term and many have achieved excellent progress grades in the recent reviews. These review grades should help the girls to focus on their option choices when we return after Christmas.

An important date for your diary is the GCSE Information Evening on Thursday 16th January 2020 which starts off the options process. You will receive more information in due course.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at 8:40 prompt and in perfect school uniform.

Best wishes for a lovely Christmas

Yours sincerely,



Mrs N Thomas  
Head of Year 9