

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 10 – Summer Term Letter**

This term has brought many challenges that will shape The Holt Community forever. Mr Furlong was an incredible, kind and inspirational man to all of those around him. The grief shown by both past and present Holt members is testament to the impact he made on everyone. The school will continue to provide support for students at this difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns about how your daughter is coping with this tragic event.

The girls have shown amazing character, grit and resilience as we moved from daily lessons to working from home 14 weeks ago! Your daughters adapted quickly to working from home and in doing so have had to work independently, manage their time, motivate themselves to complete all of the work set by teachers and all these skills cannot be underestimated. They will strengthen your daughter's ability to cope and give her an advantage as she moves into Year 11 but also beyond with her post 16 studies. As we move to the new system of 'bubbles' with students coming into school for one morning, live afternoon lessons and remote lessons, it brings a new challenge in scheduling work and creating weekly to do lists. Some students may need a little more support from you with this in terms of prioritising their work and keeping track of when work is set and due in.

Please rest assured that despite the lockdown and pandemic, your daughter can still achieve her very best in Year 11. Staff and students have done an excellent job of keeping on top of new subject content and continued to make progress. Teachers will of course address gaps in knowledge as we move out of the lockdown restrictions. Given these uncertain times, I encourage the girls to take the time to relax and look after their mental health. One of the best ways for this is to surround themselves by their loved ones and friends. Please do encourage the girls to arrange to spend time out of the house meeting up with friends and family. Keeping to some form of routine is also essential, including times they go to bed and get up; I know this must be difficult with teenagers as they do like their sleep and are often night owls.

I am in school Monday-Thursdays and really enjoyed catching up with many of the year group last week. I will be holding catch up Teams meetings with the students who are not able to come in for lessons from next week. Thank you for all of your continued support, I can only imagine how difficult it has been for you to oversee your daughters and manage your own work ...whilst keeping the cupboards stocked up with food, it's amazing how much teenagers can get through!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Miss Shephard  
Head of Year 10