



20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 10 – End of term letter**

Christmas signifies the end of the first term of KS4 for the students – the longest ever at 16 weeks! The transition into KS4 can be difficult but the girls have taken it in their stride and certainly found their feet. There have been challenges along the way but the girls have managed well and their review grades reflect their fantastic start.

The KS4 reviews are very different to lower school. It is worth noting the fine grading, as this shows exactly where within a grade your daughter is working. An example of the fine grading is as follows: 4 (3-2-1) 5 (3-2-1) 6 (3-2-1) 7 and so on. If your daughter's target for History is 7 and she is working at 6 (3) then she is well on her way to hopefully achieving her target grade in the Year 11 exams. Please share this with your daughter and reassure her that at this stage we would not expect any student to be working at their target grade in all or most of their subjects. The important thing is they keep on learning from feedback on how to improve further...as we know from sport it is all about marginal gains. Girls are starting to master their organisation skills, juggling various activities, relaxation and study – which is good to note. Staff also tell me how hard Year 10 work in lessons and the effort they put into their home learning and in preparing for assessments.

I am pleased to say it has not been all work this term. The House calendar was kicked off with Harvest. Thank you for all of your food donations that the girls brought in for their Houses. Next year it will be our Year group finishing early on a Friday to deliver the produce to the Wokingham community. The year group trip to Liquid Leisure has been finalised and 166 of the year group will be splashing around in June enjoying the summer sun! Year 10, continue to do our bit for the environment adding to our Wild Flower Garden by planting Fox Gloves and various different sizes of Alliums. The garden really added to the Holt Community last year appreciated by all and inspired many art students. We were so successful at providing a habitat for bees with a large family moving in and made planting the new flowers somewhat difficult!

House netball was the start of PE house events of the year and the standard of Year 10 netball was excellent. It came down to the wire with 10C v 10G set to take the title. Both teams played incredibly well and 10C took the game winning 2-1. Well done to everyone that represented and supported their House.

Thank you to all of the students who spoke and performed at the end of term assembly, you were fantastic! Form of the term was awarded to 10L and 10H. Both forms received the most praise messages home via the parent SIMS app and finished highest in the competitions this term including house events, form boards, Christmas maths advent challenge. Well done to 10L who won the best Christmas door for Year 10.

So another action packed term and I think it's fair to say everyone is looking forward to having time to rest and recover over the Christmas holidays.

Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Shephard  
Head of Year 10