

18th December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 11 – End of term letter

We have finally reached the end of a long and rewarding term and I feel confident in saying most students will welcome the rest. As Head of Year 11, I can say I am immensely proud of the perseverance, determination and effort students have displayed whilst embarking upon their final GCSE year. All students have undergone the realisation that this is an important year academically and we have seen a real shift towards a focus on the future. When students return in January they will sit their PPEs giving them a feel for what the summer examinations will be like. And for those studying Child Development and Health and Social Care, they will sit external examinations too. Whilst this is undoubtedly a nerve-wracking time for all, with planned study and revision, all students are capable of the success they so deserve.

Asides from examination preparation, Year 11 have still immersed themselves in the wider school community and are really making the most of their final year together. Looking back to September, Year 11 embraced our annual Harvest celebrations by collecting produce, creating display boards and attending a special themed-assembly. Year 11 also participated in delivering food parcels to the elderly of Wokingham and carried out this task with maturity and thoughtfulness. Many students took extra time to talk to those they delivered parcels to and realised what a difference this interaction could make to an older person's day.

Year 11 also had their final school photographs taken and after getting over the excitement of wearing their hair loose for two periods, marvelled at the difference in their appearance from Year 7 to 11. This was another reminder that they are growing up fast and are now very much the role-models of our school. And on this note, the Year 11 prefects have continued to do the school and themselves proud this term with taking prospective Year 6 pupils and their parents on tours of the school and helping out at Year 6 open evening in October. The effort and hard work of the prefect team this year cannot be underestimated and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them.

The annual Christmas PTA fair was a roaring success and we can be grateful for many Year 11 students for giving up their time for this. A substantial amount of money was raised for the PTA and house charities and there was an excellent sense of community with all year groups coming together for a good cause. Most notably, they were excellent role models again, for the younger year groups.

This term has to be noted for Year 11's musical achievements and they can be very proud of their efforts. With excellent ensemble performances from Alexine, Ava, Anna, Naomi and Krista and instrumental performances from Gemma, Charlotte and Alice to name but a few. The Year 11 music concert and also the Christmas carol concert showcased some of the finest talent we have ever seen. We are fortunate enough to have four musical pieces prepared for our end of year presentation assembly too.

Year 11 will be looking ahead to their future plans beyond GCSE and this is something we are very keen to support them with. This began with Year 11 students coming to the sixth form open evening in October. Year 11 then enjoyed attending sixth form taster day where they were able to sample some subjects they are considering taking on to further study. It was also a good opportunity for students to learn more about subjects like sociology and psychology which they do not study at GCSE. Mrs Hart, our Careers Lead, has spent time with every student looking at different career pathways. Finally, Year 11 have just had their post-16 guidance interviews with the senior leadership team.

Whilst we would love all students to stay on with us for Year 12 and 13 study, we do appreciate that students want to explore their options, and they should do so. However, The Holt has an excellent sixth form with dedicated and enthusiastic specialist teachers, a sixth form centre which is fully resourced, and our students go on to achieve excellent results year on year. Perhaps most importantly, after five years we know your daughter well and have her best interests at heart. Whatever your daughter's future plans are though, she has our full support and we are more than happy to help with this.

As a final note, I would like to ask you to support us in encouraging your daughter to wear the correct uniform to school. The uniform policy for Year 11 is the same as for the rest of the school and as role models to the younger year groups, it is essential Year 11 set a good example. This includes wearing black opaque tights, only one stud piercing in each ear, all hair tied up neatly where it is long enough to do so, and no other jewellery apart from a watch with a simple strap. Students are expected to wear the correct uniform for their examinations and if they are not appropriately attired, they will be asked to put this right before entering the examination room. Lunch time detentions will continue to be set with regards to incorrect uniform in line with our behaviour policy.

As I finish this letter, all that is left for me to do is wish you and your family a wonderful, relaxing Christmas break and a very happy new year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Gemma Priddy
Head of Year 11