

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Re: Year 11

As the spring term draws to a close, I wanted to write to congratulate Year 11 on their successes this term and wish them luck as they embark upon their future careers. It has been my pleasure to be Head of Year to such a wonderful, conscientious and thoughtful group of students. They should be very proud of everything they have accomplished over the last five years at school, and whilst they will not be sitting the examinations they worked so hard to prepare for, their hard work will not go unrecognised or unrewarded.

We fully appreciate that this is a very uncertain time for Year 11 regarding how their GCSE qualifications will be rewarded. In these unprecedented times, we are still awaiting instruction on this from the government. As soon as we know more, the Co-headteachers will be in touch with all parents regarding next steps. Whilst we know this is incredibly frustrating, all we can do for the time being is wait. We have your daughter's best interests at heart and will do everything we can to ensure she gets the grades she deserves.

Year 11's last day before the study leave period should have been Thursday 7th May so your daughter's subject teachers will continue to issue lesson work until this date (not including what would naturally have been the Easter term break). This work will have no bearing on your daughter's predicted grades and is not related to examination tasks. The aim of the work is to give your daughter the opportunity to engage in some learning during a lengthy period of time at home. It is good to keep the mind active during uncertain times and to continue to foster a love of learning where possible. Many of your daughters will continue their academic study in Year 12, so it is beneficial to keep up good study patterns over the coming months. **Please note though, that Year 11 should still complete any outstanding NEA work as this is considered essential work.**

Unfortunately, I also need to confirm that the Year 11 leavers assembly and also the prom at the Coppid Beech Hotel which was scheduled to take place on Friday 26th June is cancelled. Due to the government's current guidance on social distancing and the uncertainty as to whether school will re-open at this time, it has been necessary to cancel the arrangements we have made. I know that this will come as a huge disappointment to Year 11. I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the students who were on the prom committee and worked so hard to plan the event for their peers.

However, we will still be proceeding with the order for the leavers hoodie which was designed by our leavers committee before school closed. It will feature 'The Holt School Leavers', school logo and the number '20' with all of the student's names who have given consent for their name to be used. It will be available in a range of colours and sizes and have an option for students to personalise when the order is placed. You will receive a letter shortly about how to place an order online for home delivery if your daughter would like one. Production on this has slowed down as you can imagine but we will go ahead as soon as we are able.

Before our premature closure, Year 11 had already had a busy term and accomplished a lot they can be proud of. They carried themselves through the PPE process with perseverance and determination and had demonstrated good organisational skills with their work load and time. In addition to their exam and revision schedules, many Year 11 students found the time to keep up their extra-curricular participation and support the wider school community. The BBC school news day was supported with Year 11 students editing articles produced by the younger years. A special thank you goes to India and Gloria for their hard work here. Year 11 also participated in our amazing school production of Beauty and the Beast. Natasha, Lucy, Kathryn and Alexine took to the stage with principal parts and entertained us with their wit, dance moves and vocal talents. Alice was also sensational as part of the orchestra. Thank you to these students for their incredible talent and hard work but also to all of the Year 11 students and their families who came for a night out to watch the show and support the school. It was a roaring success!

Year 11 departed with a final assembly organised in less than 24 hours. It is poignant to think that they have lost their rite of passage as school leavers and whilst this was not the send-off they truly deserved, they demonstrated what amazing and talented students they are. They absolutely outdid themselves in the way they pulled together as a year group to celebrate their time at school and to honour their form tutors before they left. Year 11 have blossomed into mature, graceful students who will go on to have bright futures regardless of the premature end to Year 11.

Thank you for your continued support of the Holt school and we are looking forward to seeing so many of your daughters in Sixth Form.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Gemma Priddy  
Head of Year 11