

2nd April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 7 end of term letter

It seems hard to believe that your daughters are now over two thirds through their first year at The Holt – however it is very strange to be writing to you in such unusual circumstances with them not in school! The term started with the Parents' Evening and it was lovely to see so many parents in attendance and to hear lots of positive comments. The feedback from staff is overwhelmingly positive with how well your daughters are settling in to school life and making progress.

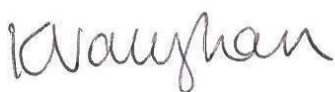
I am so pleased that the girls managed to experience The Holt rite of passage trip to Rushall Farm before we went in to lockdown! All the Year 7 students had a hands on learning experience with soil sampling, identifying machines, studying diversification and learning about the crop rotation system, organic farming and of course watching the animals. There were squeals of delight when they saw the calves, pigs and donkeys but holding the lambs put everything else in the shade – only a few girls were unfortunate enough to have a lamb have an accident on them! The staff at Rushall Farm were very complimentary of The Holt girls and said they were welcome anytime.

Behaviour has been extremely good in school too. My biggest concern is the increase in the number of friendship problems involving the use of technology. Within school we remind girls about the importance of using technology responsibly and how inappropriate use can impact on others. Please talk to your daughter regularly about what they are using their phones, tablets and laptops for and to monitor how much time they spend on devices – whilst technology is a key part of all our lives now it is all too easy for a child to become caught up in arguments and unpleasantness online. However, we are also grateful at this time for technology as it allows us to keep in touch and stay connected with each other; I am sure the girls are all making the most of House Party and Zoom to maintain their friendships.

Thank you for being supportive of the school as we all get to grips with setting work online – there are bound to be a few teething problems but the girls have risen to the challenge! If your daughter has any technical difficulties she should email homestudy@holt.wokingham.sch.uk for help. Teachers are also available via email for subject specific questions about the work that is set and the girls should contact them if they need help with the work that has been set.

I would like to wish you all a restful break over the Easter period and remind you that teachers will resume setting work online on Monday 20th April. If you do have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact me using the Year 7 team email address below.

Yours sincerely



Katie Vaughan
Head of Year 7
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