

13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 9 – End of term letter**

This has been an unusual term for year 9. They have successfully managed to juggle the stresses and pressures associated with lockdown with managing to stay on top of their extended remote learning. I have been so impressed with the year group in terms of their resilience and hard work. They really are a lovely group of students and this has never been more evident.

Something that I enjoy every year is Form group assemblies. This year's theme was social issues and the different Form groups were able to choose a social issue of their choice, something that they felt passionate about and wanted to discuss with the rest of Year 9. The quality of the assemblies that we had before lockdown was incredible; they chose to discuss discrimination, equality, racism and knife crime amongst others. Not every Form was able to deliver their assembly so this is something we can look forward to next term. In a similar vein, Aadya in 9T wrote an assembly on Black Lives Matters in response to recent events. Students will be able to share this next week in their tutor groups virtually. I am so proud of how passionate and socially aware Year 9 are. These are not easy topics but they tackled them with maturity.

I have really enjoyed dropping into the online registrations we have been running on TEAMS. Tutor groups have been regularly meeting up for registrations for the past several weeks and it has been a fantastic opportunity for students to catch up with their friends in their Forms and chat with their tutor again. I have enjoyed listening to some lovely discussions about what everyone has been reading during lockdown, been shown videos of new skills that the students and teachers have developed; these included skateboarding, playing the ukulele, painting and drawing and lots and lots of baking. This week they have been completing some numeracy puzzles, Mr Green added some very complicated puzzles (to me!) but the students were very engaged and Miss Schotting and 9T were testing each other with various riddles.

The summer term is synonymous with house activities. Events are having to be run remotely this year but there are still plenty of exciting events going ahead. House dance is in the rehearsal stage now; I have been so impressed with how Year 9 have leapt into this with enthusiasm. Forms get to pick their own themes so I cannot wait to see what the finished dances look like. Weavers won last year so it is all to play for. In addition, the house drama competition is just about to finish. For this, students have been asked to create a 2-minute film using the features of Kneehigh theatre. All the points from these various competitions will feed into the much coveted House cup.

All that is left is for me to wish you an enjoyable summer holiday, take a well-deserved break and I look forward to seeing the girls return to school on Friday 4th September.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Thomas  
Head of Year 9