

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian

**Re: Year 10 – End of term letter**

It has been a long term – 15 weeks! – but your daughters have really kept going and adapted to the demands of their GCSE subjects.

Talking to many of the students, they have noticed the increase in workload this year; students should be doing about two hours of work an evening on average. However, it is important that they do not give up their extra-curricular activities and spending time with family and friends, as this balance will help them over the next four terms.

I really enjoyed the Year 10 presentation assembly when girls were recognised for their hard work this term. Not only were many certificates handed out but we enjoyed performances and talks from a number of students. Lulu, Grace and Sarah-Faith performed 'Teenage Dirtbag' and the whole GCSE music group gave us new interpretations on Christmas songs. Abi, Nicola, Ellena, Ella, Nadia, Yasmin and Abi gave great speeches about some of the activities the students have taken part in this term. I was particularly proud of Honey and Sarah-Faith who talked to the year group about why they decided to volunteer to do whole school assemblies on topics they feel passionately about: Black History month and Diabetes. They have earned the respect of their peers for talking so confidently and eloquently and I hope they have inspired more girls to speak up about issues they feel strongly about.

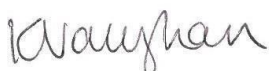
I am lucky to teach two year 10 classes this year in business and economics – I am really enjoying getting to know these students in a different setting and was able to see them in a new environment when we did Year 10 Enterprise Day earlier this term and also took a group of students to the Jaguar factor in the West Midlands a couple of weeks ago. The girls joined in the activities with enthusiasm and were a credit to themselves.

The latest reviews are now available on Frog; it is pleasing to see that the vast majority of students are already working towards or on track for their GCSE targets. There will be an opportunity to talk to their teachers on 25<sup>th</sup> January at the Year 10 Parents' Evening next term.

We have invested in some packs of playing cards and other card games for the Year 10 students to use during lunchtime and these have been incredibly popular. It is a real pleasure to walk into a room which is noisy and full of laughter as the girls enjoy themselves – the phones are nowhere to be seen! If you are looking for ideas over the holidays on how to give them a break from screens I would recommend trying this as we have been really pleased with the impact it has had and how much they have enjoyed teaching each other new games.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a restful holiday – we look forward to welcoming the students back on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Katie Vaughan  
Head of Year 10