

29th March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 11 – End of term letter

By the time you read this, your daughters will have completed their last full term of KS4 and they will then only have four full weeks left in school before study leave commences! This last half term we have been very busy preparing for the final count down to the exams and also of course the fun events! The Prom committee have met to plan the theme and decorations for the big night and I am sure that you have already had many discussions at home about dresses, hair, transport etc. The year book committee has also been collecting photographs before they decide on the layout of the book. I must thank Lucy Leo in particular for taking photographs of tutor groups and spending a few lunchtimes on the field taking pictures of friendship groups. We have another group of girls organising the leavers' assembly and the hoodies.

Friday 11th May is the last full day in school before their exams and/or study leave commences on Monday 14th May. As stated in my previous email the girls will have a choice as to whether or not they come into school between the exams. Teachers that usually have year 11 will always be available at their normal lesson time to teach any of the girls that come into school.

The three strike rule was introduced a few weeks ago and applies right up to and including the day of the prom. If a year 11 student is sent to the silence room during a lesson or is recorded for poor behaviour at any time then she will have a strike against her name and three of these means that she will not be able to attend the Prom. The exam period is a very stressful and difficult time and the minority of students cannot be allowed to disrupt the learning of others and this is the reason for these sanctions.

The girls have worked hard this term whether to finish their courses, controlled assessments, or to take their PPEs. Hopefully their results will spur them on to do even better in the summer. Please continue to give your daughters as much support and encouragement both before the exams start, and also during the exam period to help her to be organised and prepared on the day of the exams.

Although I will be contacting you regarding prices for the end of year events, this will be my last end of term email, not only because the girls will be leaving but because I will also be retiring in the summer. I can't believe it is almost five years ago that Miss Richards introduced me to you and I remember her saying that I would be their Head of Year until they finished year 11. I replied that it did not state that in my contract and it would depend on what type of year group they were.

I have been a year head for a very long time and I can honestly say that the class of 2013 -18 have been a really lovely year group – a real pleasure to be with. We have of course had our problems over the five years but none so far have been that serious or insurmountable that I have felt like packing it in earlier than I had intended.

Thanks must therefore go to you, the parents, for being so supportive of the school and of course in raising your daughters who have developed into lovely young ladies. Thank you also to your wonderful and talented girls in year 11 who have always been willing to help out when needed, especially in assemblies and showing people around the school. I have particularly enjoyed the end of year trips (which have always been well attended) to Bracknell Ice Rink, Legoland, Thorpe Park, Windsor, Winchester, Upton Court and Westfield's. These have been a pleasure to organise because the girls always conduct themselves appropriately and make it easy for the staff to relax as well.

I would like to give parents my best wishes as they have to tread carefully around stressed, concerned daughters and of course wish the very best of luck to the girls with all their GCSEs. . Please remind your daughters not to be a "What If" girl. Please remind them that if they put the effort in and work hard they will know that they have tried their best. However, if they do not put the effort in they will never know what they could have achieved and will always think "What if I had worked harder or What if I had made some extra revision notes."

I would like to wish you and your daughter a restful break over the holidays and for them to come back refreshed for the summer term.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Holland
Head of Year 11