

19th December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: End of term letter - Year 7

Now we have come to the end of Year 7's very first term at The Holt it is a good time to reflect on all they have achieved and the many activities they have participated in since joining the school. I have been so impressed by the girls and their enthusiasm for everything that they do.

Upton Court was a fantastic day out in the first half term, I was impressed with the answers I heard when they were asked about what makes good team work and group after group answered 'stoicism, perseverance and a growth mindset'. It really shows how Year 7 have embraced the ethos of our school and are proud to call themselves 'Holt girls'. It was a great day and it was lovely to see friendships develop and to begin to see the girls characters as they had fun.

Our first term has also seen the fantastic 'Matilda' concert. Thank you to Mr Gray for his hard work here. Year 7 sounded beautiful when they sang in unison and it is great to see so many students working together, it took hard work and perseverance and was a performance to be proud of. Particularly well done to 7S who had the most students participate in the concert.

The remembrance service in November has been another highlight of this term. Defne spoke so eloquently when she read part of 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon in front of the entire Year 7 year group, special guests from The Holt Association and also from the Royal British Legion. Year 7 were respectful and did both themselves and the school proud.

Year 7 have done a fantastic job helping with the annual Christmas Fair. They enthusiastically offered to man the stalls for their houses and really enjoyed looking around at the variety of Christmas ware on offer. There was much excitement at being allowed to attend the fair during period 5.

Finally this week saw the first of what will be termly presentation assemblies for Year 7. These presentation assemblies are where hard work, curiosity, perseverance and growth mindset are celebrated and the students come up on to the school stage to receive their well-earned certificates and shake the hand of one of our co-head teachers, this term it was Mrs Pearce. These could be certificates from subjects, their form tutor or for their recognition points. I was extremely proud to see so many of Year 7 receive a certificate but I was even more impressed with the quality of presentations/performances by the year group. We had such a diverse array of performances from girls playing musical instruments, Indian dancing, talks on GB tumbling and ice skating and beautiful singing. It takes great courage to perform in front of your peers and they did exceptionally well.

At this important stage in your daughter's education, it is very important that your daughter achieves the highest possible attendance. As a year group our attendance is 97.3%, which is excellent but it would be even better to see it at 98% or above. In this first term a few days off with a cough or cold has had a big impact on your daughter's attendance figure, but I am sure as the weather improves in the New Year this will improve.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 4th January, at 8:40am in perfect school uniform ready to start the next busy term.

Best wishes for a lovely Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Thomas
Head of Year 7