

March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 8 – End of Term Letter

It has been another excellent term for year 8's. I am still very much enjoying my learning walks, where the atmosphere in lessons is purposeful and focused. It is clear to see that the students are working hard and taking pride in their work. Most recently, this has been demonstrated in the project work in geography and technology. I had the privilege of being invited to the food technology department for a break time with biscuits, where some of the best diet games were being showcased. The students had gone above and beyond in their work and created some outstanding, imaginative and beautifully presented games.

We have had another busy term of house activities, as the house calendar concludes at the end of the week and everyone finds out who has been crowned house champions! January kicked off with house cross country where the house spirit was clear to be seen. Students were pushing themselves to the finish and supporting their form-mates. Congratulations to 8S for finishing first in this competition. Another PE event was house football, where the standard of play was high across all students and all houses. 8S managed to do the double by also taking the house football top spot. In art, students have been designing and creating patterned pebbles in house colours to be displayed in the school's recently rejuvenated garden.

There has been an aura of Spain this term with the Spanish side of the year group being given the opportunity to watch a Spanish play and get a taste of Spain during the tapas evening. The event was well attended and the smell of Spanish delights down the corridors certainly made the rest of the school envious!

8W and 8S have led excellent year assemblies this term. The forms were given the brief of delivering an assembly on a theme that was important to them. Acceptance and diversity have been strong themes, with 8W centring their assembly on acceptance and 8S on embracing celebrating people's differences and interests. It was clear to see the amount of work that each form had put in and how well they had worked together. I am looking forward to the upcoming 8G assembly which is following the theme of "support networks". I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outstanding team of form tutors for the excellent support given to our students and their continued hard work.

I was so impressed by all of the speakers and performers in the end of term presentation assembly. Performing or speaking in front of your year group can be very nerve-racking, but all of the students should be very proud of themselves. They were a credit to the year in an assembly which focused on celebrating their endeavours and successes. There was an abundance of certificates this time, demonstrating the hard work that is going into lessons from all of our students!

At this important stage in your daughter's education, it is very important your daughter achieves the highest possible attendance. As a year group our attendance is 95.69%, which is good, but it would be even better to see it at 98% or above. A few days off with a cough or cold will have an impact on your daughter's attendance figure, but I am sure as the weather improves following this unseasonably cold spring, this will improve. Well done to all students for their continued hard work and I would like to wish a safe journey to the year 8 students attending the Amsterdam music trip over Easter; what a fantastic time you will all have!

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Miss C Shephard
Head of Year 8