

GSD/jr
July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 7 – End of Year Letter

One of the things we always say to students when they start at Wildern is just how quickly each academic year seems to pass. This year has been no exception. It is easy to forget the challenges faced at the start of the year with this year group. This was their first uninterrupted year of education since Year 4 and as a result has been challenging but also rewarding for them. The vast majority have slipped into a good routine of secondary school and are thriving here at Wildern. As their Director of Progress and Achievement they have made me incredibly proud in the way they have settled and have shown themselves at their very best. Year 7 is the foundation from which the rest of their Wildern journey will be built so it is reassuring that despite everything the last few years has thrown at us we can still look forward to the successful days ahead.

As we move into Year 8, and as your young people become fully fledged teenagers, there will be more opportunity for success. I have spoken a lot of the importance of students grasping opportunities while they are at school and how much of their personality will be shaped by their interests and extracurricular activities and successes. It has been fantastic to see so many students making the most of the wonderful opportunities available here and I challenge them to continue this next year.

The final set of WAD data once again demonstrated how hard Year 7 have been working. There will be a number of new interventions in place from September to ensure all students are best placed to achieve their targets and I would like to thank parents for all of the feedback we have received on our WAD, there will be some changes to this for the next academic year in response to this. It was a pleasure to see so many students and parents at this year's awards evening. This was our first face to face awards since COVID and is always an incredible celebration.

As we start to think about September, I thought it was important to share a few reminders as students' will really need to hit the ground running for the start of Year 8.

- Attendance will be a crucial factor in future success, especially as we start to think about pathways and option choices after Christmas. I have been impressed this year with student's resilience in the face of COVID and the high attendance which has been maintained by the vast majority of students. We of course understand that students will get ill along the way and face issues which may see them miss some schooling, however, please make sure any problems or concerns are reported to school so support can be offered where necessary.
- I would also like to remind you about the information which has come out throughout the year about social media, and the use of this, by our young people and adults alike. I feel it is important I emphasise that communication with the school is key so please do contact

us if you have questions or concerns as we are always happy to answer and ensure you have the correct information.

- The shops will soon be full of 'Back to School' equipment and clothes. Please support the school and your son or daughter by making sure that they begin the term properly by:
 - Having a sensible school bag, pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.
 - Wearing correct school uniform – black leather shoes (no logos and not trainers)
Full details of our school uniform including PE kit and acceptable shoe styles, can be found on the school website.
 - Correct adherence to make-up, jewellery and haircut policies.

I think it is also worth spending some time over the summer reflecting on your son/daughter's first year here and discussing the many successes and the potential areas where there may be room for improvement as we head into Year 8 to ensure the most successful year possible.

Lastly, but by no means least tutors play a pivotal role in the successes of each of our students; they are the ones who help set them up for the day, offering a smile and unwavering support no matter what. It is down to the hard work and diligence of an incredibly tight team of tutors that the year group maintains such high standards. I would like to thank all of our tutors for their support this year and remind you that they are always available should you have issues about your son or daughter you wish to discuss.

Unfortunately, a new academic year does bring some staffing changes here and we will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Culverhouse who has worked tirelessly for her Tutor group and we wish her all the best. Of course the other change is that I will no longer be the DoPA. I have said all that I wanted to in my previous letter but would like to once again reassure you that everything possible is being done to ensure a seamless transition as possible. I would also like to thank Miss Wiley who has helped so much this year. She will be staying in her current role and will be very important in the transition from myself to Mr Kinnaird.

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable, relaxing and safe summer holiday. I look forward to the students returning for their 'Meeting Me' conversations and then in full on Wednesday 7 September 2022 ready and rejuvenated for the challenges that lay ahead. Even though I won't be here I can assure you that I will be keeping a close eye on the successes of this wonderful group of young people. If and when inevitably, I see you around please say hello and give me a wave.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Denman
Director of Progress and Achievement
Year 7

Miss G Wiley
Assistant Director of Progress and Achievement
Year 7