

JCM/jr
July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 – End of Year Letter

At the end of each academic year we like to reflect on the challenges and successes we have had whilst being in Year 8. What a year it has been!

I know starting half way through a school year is often a challenge (one I know I share with a few students who joined us this year) however I have been made to feel extremely welcome thanks to the great nature of our young people in our cohort, so thank you.

The students have continued to show their fantastic individual personalities both in and out of the classroom. Through monitoring using WAD and Eref data, the year team have continued to have positive conversations with many of our young people this last term.

I was blown away by the recent Wildern Awards evening where it was brilliant to see so many of our year being celebrated for their incredible work ethic, talent and progress. Parents and teachers are so very proud of all students. Year 8 really are continuing to set the gold standard - let's keep this momentum going into Year 9.

We would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring students come to school fully prepared for the day's work. We are, of course, beginning to think about next term. 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 bag and pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.
- Wearing correct school uniform – black leather shoes (no logos and not trainers)
- Full details of school uniform including PE kit and acceptable shoe styles, can be found on the school website.
- Correct adherence to make-up, jewellery and hair cut policies.

It is important that expectations are the same for all students to make sure that our minimum standard policies are fair and consistent. Your support here is absolutely crucial and very much appreciated.

I think it is also worth spending some time over the summer reflecting on your son/daughter's Year 8 experience, discussing the many successes and the potential areas where there may be room for improvement as we head into Year 9 to ensure the most successful year possible. We understand there is likely to be an amount of apprehension here from students due to the pressure felt at GCSE level but we are confident that through your support and the students focus we can expect amazing things!

We are so extremely lucky to have a brilliant tutor team working for our students in our cohort and our students continue to benefit from the amazing work our dedicated group of tutors do. They continue to ensure all their tutees have the best possible pastoral care which allows all students to thrive in all aspects of their school life. Please continue to reach out to your child's tutor as your 'first port of call' for any worries or questions. Each day the tutors are often the first teacher to greet your child, to check in, ensuring all minimum standards are met, each of our tutors have been instrumental in ensuring we as a year group have succeeded in another really positive year at Wildern. Unfortunately, as is common at this time of year, we will be saying goodbye to three of our team at the end of term; Miss Wakefield, Mrs Colwyn-Thomas and Mrs Wedick. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication as part of our tutor team and I am sure you join me in wishing them the very best of luck for the future.

Year 9 is a crucial year in laying the foundations for GCSE. It will be a welcome opportunity for all students to come out of their shells, expanding their subject knowledge in specific areas linked to their aspirations and bright futures. We hope that they are also able to experience the vast opportunities Wildern has to offer; trips, extra-curricular clubs, the school production, showcases and a plethora of other opportunities.

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. Finally, I would like to once again thank you for all your support and wish you a relaxing summer break enjoying the hopefully brilliant weather!

We cannot wait for next year's adventure in Year 9.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Marshall
Director of Progress and Achievement - Year 8