

KSH/jr
July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 9 End of Term letter

It only took 3 years, but finally the students have completed their first FULL year at Wildern School, with only a few minor disruptions along the way, but nothing compared to the two previous years. It has been fantastic to see Year 9 taking advantage of all the opportunities on offer, getting involved with extra-curricular activities and going out on trips. They have again proven what an exceptional group of young people they are and for that you can be extremely proud.

There have been so many moments this year that have made me proud of the year group. Watching a huge number of Year 9 representing the year group in the school production of 'Matilda' as well as having the pleasure of watching the 'Dancelive!' final and Wildern winning! I am sure those of you that have seen it will agree how exceptional it is. I am yet to watch it without crying! Sport has also been a huge success with the girls' football team dominating and the boys' team continuing to do well. The most exciting football I have seen has to be the ongoing boys' tournament at break and lunch down on the Astro. I have enjoyed being referee on a number of occasions this year and even adding in an impromptu penalty shoot out to settle things once and for all! A reminder that next year the Astro will be shared with the current Year 8's so Year 9 should be mindful that they will be role models, remembering to bring trainers to get changed into and leave the Astro promptly when the final whistle blows.

As always, Year 9 showed that they are the kindest and most generous year group in the school with record numbers again for the Christmas shoe box appeal, basics bank and Easter Egg collection. Over the past 3 years the year group have donated over 5100 items to the Food Bank. What an astonishing achievement. Well done Year 9!

I would like to thank you all for continuing to ensure that Year 9 come to school in correct uniform. On this note I just wanted to highlight a few aspects of uniform that we have discussed with students recently. I intend to highlight this now with a view to ensuring that we are not in a position where we have conversations regarding uniform when we return in September, so your support with this will be very much appreciated.

- 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
- School trousers are required to be loose fitting, not leggings.
- Only the Wildern school jumper and a coat are permitted in school so students are asked not to bring in non Wildern and/or hooded jumpers.
- Correct adherence to make-up, jewellery and hair cut policies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the tutors for their hard work over the course of the year. We work hard to ensure that students form a trusting and positive relationship with their tutor, which I hope lasts throughout their time at Wildern; even if personnel have to change. Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Curtin-Sewell, Mrs Millington and Mrs Early. We wish you all the best for the future, the new tutors will be announced in due course. Thankfully, we do keep the remaining tutors the same for September and they are keen to ensure Year 10 is another successful year. As always, please feel free to contact your son/daughter's tutor if you have any concerns.

Finally, I know I have previously sent my letter out confirming that I will no longer be the Director of Progress and Achievement next year. But I wanted to say once again, what a pleasure it has been to get to know the year group over the past 3 years. I am filled with mixed emotions of sadness to be leaving them but also excitement for my new role. I thank you again for all your support and especially for the kind messages I have received since sending my letter.

And so my final thank you, is to the students, for making sure no day has been dull. I wish them every success moving into Year 10. Don't be strangers, I still want to know how they are getting on, and of course, keeping me updated on the latest gossip! I hope that you have a great and restful summer, you all fully deserve it! 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.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Heath
Director of Progress and Achievement – Year 9