

Our Ref: SST/HBr
Monday 24th May 2021

Dear Year 13 Students, Parents and Guardians,

Re: The end of an era and new beginnings

I wanted to write to say a huge and very fond farewell to all of our Year 13 students as their Sixth Form experience comes to an end. Firstly, I want to apologise to each and every one of you that the last year and a bit have not played out quite in the manner we had all envisaged. I have taken little pleasure in seeing the level of disruption and dislocation to your education that we have experienced. It has truly saddened me that we lost you to home learning for lengthy periods of time and that we have not, as a school, had you in the school building in the consistent and normal manner that we would expect. You have had a Sixth Form experience quite like no other. I am also disappointed that you have not been able, albeit understandably, to sit your final A Level exams in the normal fashion. I was quietly confident that as a year group you would have shone not just within the context of the school but also regionally and nationally. As a Year 13 I am personally incredibly proud of you and all of your achievements. Many of you were part of the 2019 Year 11 cohort that helped the school to achieve its best ever set of GCSE outcomes. This is testament to the industrious nature and academic class that you all display day-in and day-out. I do hope that the grades you achieve this summer are reflective of the work that you have put in and allow you all to move on to pastures new. What the last year has hopefully taught you, and it certainly has for me, is that life can throw up curve balls that you do not envisage, that you cannot predict and that you have to front up to. I truly hope that the last year and a bit has helped to develop even further your resilience and determination to succeed in life and to take every challenge in your stride. As my own father would say 'life is not a dress rehearsal.' With that in mind I hope those words echo in your minds Year 13 and that as you walk through the journey of life you seize every opportunity that comes your way, that you grab every moment and, importantly, that you have no regrets.

Whilst one chapter of your life comes to a close a new chapter in your life begins. You are all at the start of the next part of your journey in life and I truly hope that you achieve everything that you desire. I have been humbled by your support for the school and your enthusiasm to be the very best edit of yourselves. I am incredibly proud of you all and I hope that as a school we mean as much to you as you have to us.

Take care, keep in touch and carpe diem.

Go show the world what you are made of Year 13.

An enormously proud Principal.

Mr Strickland
Principal

Mr S Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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