



19th July 2023

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 7 (J8),

As the end of the School year approaches, I wanted to write to congratulate Year 7 on completing their first year at The Buckingham School.

I have been really impressed with how quickly the Year Group settled and embedded themselves into School life. Their positive contributions have not gone unnoticed and collectively, they have gathered 63,433 positive points between them. Once again, the most any Year Group achieved this year.

It's been quite a year, and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some stand out moments:

Enrichment week was a huge success for Year 7. It was incredible to see so many students taking part in workshops, day trips and expanding on some of their already favoured interests. With our staff already thinking about next year, I encourage all students to sign themselves up for a new challenge!

We were fortunate to host a TED talk delivered by Jamie Denyer. His powerful words and personal experiences touched the hearts of our students and staff. His talk about challenges we face in life, left a lasting impact on our School community, fostering empathy, compassion and resilience among our students.

June saw our first ever Colour Run take place to mark the end of Pride month. It was so wonderful to see Year 7 come together, sharing such a vibrant and colourful afternoon. I would like to thank all involved in the organising of this event.

We have continued our drive for student recognition and alongside the rewards in place, the following have been introduced:

- Students should have received their Bronze, Silver and Gold badge in honour of their fantastic achievements with House Points (If your student is missing any of these, please contact me and I will arrange to get these to them in the first week back)
- Weekly 'Golden Tickets' take place every Friday, where students collect a treat from the main playground
- Weekly 'Queue Jump Pass' awarded to individuals from a member of staff
- 'Shout Out' postcards are now fully embedded and I know that many of our students have celebrated receiving these.
- 'Pizza and Pop' has been a great success this year, recognising efforts in success, attendance and improved behaviours.

Sadly, this term Claydon will be saying goodbye to Mrs Carter and we will miss her greatly in the team. Mrs Carter has always gone that extra step for students and I know the students of 7Claydon will be sad to see her go. We wish her all the best in her next chapter.

Miss Cunningham will be stepping down as Form Tutor for Whittlebury 2 to work more closely with our Sixth Form. Even though she will no longer be their Form Tutor, I have no doubt she will still be checking in on students' progress! I would like to thank her for all she has done this year.

I would like to welcome to our team Shemar Stewart, taking over as Form Tutor for Claydon and Charmaine Bolton-Troy taking over as Form Tutor for Whittlebury 2.

As we get ready for September, I would like to take a moment to emphasise the importance of maintaining the high standards set as a School community. One of the areas that will require particular attention is our Uniform policy (link below). With a number of unwelcomed additions this term, please can I ask that students are organised for the new year ahead. As always, if you need support please do not hesitate to reach out.

<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/site/data/files/letters%20and%20messages/term-6-2022/631749A7142303A24660EFF125D409D3.pdf?pid=56>

Final thoughts...

I am sure that many of you are welcoming a well deserved rest over the summer. Although many are looking forward to the break, we recognise that this continues to be a challenging time for others. Below is a link to our website with support helplines available.

<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=3511>

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all and I have loved working with your students this year.

Have a wonderful summer making memories with your families.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C Checkley

Head of Year 8

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