



19th July 2023

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 8 (J9),

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've had together. It has truly been a remarkable year filled with growth, achievements and memorable experiences for our students.

One of the highlights of this year was our Enrichment Week, where our students had the opportunity to explore their passions and delve into new areas of interest. From workshops and field trips, to hands-on activities, it was heartening to witness the enthusiasm and joy our students displayed as they learned and discovered new horizons.

We were fortunate to host a TED Talk delivered by Jamie Denyer, also known as "The Grief Preacher." His powerful words and personal experiences touched the hearts of our students, helping them understand and cope with grief and life challenges in a profound way. The talk left a lasting impact on our School community, fostering empathy, compassion and resilience among our students.

The vibrant and colourful atmosphere of our annual Colour Run brought smiles to everyone's faces. Seeing our students enthusiastically participate and support one another was a testament to the sense of unity and inclusivity that defines our School. It was a day filled with laughter, joy and a shared sense of camaraderie.

Our sporting fixtures and successes have been nothing short of extraordinary. Throughout the year, our students have displayed remarkable dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship, both on and off the field. From the countless hours of practice to the exhilaration of competition, their achievements have been outstanding. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and we are grateful for the unwavering support from parents and teachers that made it all possible.

Next year will see students selecting their GCSE subjects. This is an important decision that can shape their academic and career path. Here are some factors to start considering over the summer and into the start of the academic year:

- **Interests and Passions:** Consider the subjects that genuinely interest you and align with your passions. Choosing subjects that you enjoy can make studying more enjoyable and increase your motivation to excel in those areas.
- **Future Goals and Career Aspirations:** Think about your future goals and career aspirations. Research the subjects that are recommended or required for the career paths you're considering. Some professions may have specific subject requirements or preferences, so it's important to be aware of those early on.
- **Strengths and Skills:** Reflect on your strengths and skills. Identify the subjects in which you excel and feel confident. Building upon your strengths can boost your confidence and provide a strong foundation for further studies or career pursuits.

Moving forward, I want to emphasise the importance of maintaining the high standards that we have set as a School community. One of the areas that will require particular attention is our Uniform Policy. From September, I expect a real focus on adhering to the correct uniform guidelines. Presenting ourselves in a smart and unified manner reflects our pride in being part of this school and our respect for its values.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable year, let us carry the spirit of these accomplishments into the future. May it serve as a reminder of what we can achieve when we work together, support one another and act with kindness to all.

Wishing you a restful summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs D Ribbans

Head of Year 8

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