



21st July 2023

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 10 (J11),

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of another academic year, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude and share some reflections on the incredible journey we've had together in Year 10.

First and foremost, I must say that it has been an absolute privilege and joy to be Head of Year 10. This year has been filled with both challenges and triumphs, but I am immensely proud of the growth and progress your children have shown. Together, we have celebrated successes, learned from mistakes and navigated the ups and downs.

Students have demonstrated incredible dedication and hard work, and as a result, have made significant improvements academically and personally. It has been incredibly fulfilling to witness their development, not only in terms of knowledge but also as responsible, empathetic and well-rounded individuals.

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. We also had our Drop Down Day, where the students were exemplary in learning about some 'taboo' topics such as online social aggression, pornography and sexually transmitted diseases.

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.

As we look ahead, it's essential to acknowledge that Year 11 is approaching—the most crucial year for students as they prepare for their GCSE exams.

One area we are focusing on for improvement is uniform standards. As we have discussed earlier, a letter was sent out detailing the new uniform requirements. Your co-operation in maintaining these standards will greatly contribute to creating a positive and conducive learning environment for all students. If you have any issues or concerns regarding the Uniform Policy, please feel free to contact me directly—I am here to help.

With the end of the academic year, we must bid farewell to two valued members of our school community. Sadly, Mr. Mandel will be leaving us; we wish him all the very best in his new job. Additionally, Mr. Ryan

will be stepping down as a Form Tutor, but will remain with us in the School. We appreciate their contributions and dedication to our students' development.

On a more positive note, we are delighted to welcome Mr. Tantun, a new science teacher, who will be taking over as the Form Tutor for Chandos. I have no doubt that he will make a positive impact and contribute greatly to the well-being and growth of our students.

As the summer break approaches, I encourage you to make the most of this time to relax, rejuvenate, and spend quality moments with family and friends. A well-deserved break will ensure you return for your final year with renewed energy and focus.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all, for your unwavering support throughout the year. Together, we make a formidable team and it's heartwarming to see the collaboration between home and school for the benefit of everyone.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming Year 11 students back for what promises to be an extraordinary and successful final year.

Yours faithfully,

Miss G Kenneford

Head of Year Year 10 (J11)

gkenneford@buckingham-school.org