

22 July 2021

Dear Parent

Year 8 - End of Summer Term and Academic Year 2020/21

Firstly, I wanted to express my immense pride for the way that all Year 8 students have conducted themselves this school year. Having had so much disruption to their schooling in the last two academic years at Lees Brook, they've shown resilience and a determination to embrace the challenges they have faced. All students have also shown great maturity to the changes we have had to make this year, in order to keep the school safe for everybody. Every student has something to be proud of this academic year – whether it is in terms of their behaviour, attendance, academic attainment, or a combination of all three. I continue to be incredibly proud of Year 8 and every student in the year group.

Looking ahead to next academic year, students in the Year 8 will start their GCSE options. This is an exciting opportunity for the students, taking another step in their educational journey. This new challenge will provide a fresh start for students to embed positive routines and embrace the school motto "Lead, Believe, Create, Succeed. In September, students will start returning to school from Monday 6th September. Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September are INSET days and therefore the school will be closed to students. Next year there will be a number of changes to school systems and more information about these will follow in due course. For this year group, I expect that these changes will be welcomed and allow them to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that they have not been able to access throughout this year.

One change that I want to mention specifically is to the pastoral support for the year group. This will be in harmony with other schools across the Archway Learning Trust and offer students and parents greater access to the pastoral support we provide in school day-to-day. In September, the school will no longer have Heads of Year that also teach. Instead, these roles will be fulfilled by non-teaching members of staff who will be known as Year Leaders. It is therefore with a heavy heart that I have to inform you that Miss Kendall and I will not be continuing as Head of Year next year. Each year group will have a new Year Leader and they will introduce themselves at the beginning of the new academic year. I know what a fantastic group of students Year 8 are and look forward to seeing all students making a positive first impression in September. Mrs Moore will be taking on a new role of Student Support Mentor from September, and will be supporting students from all year groups as part of the pastoral team. I cannot thank Mrs Moore enough for all of her help and support with our students. Since taking on the role of this year group's LBM, Mrs Moore has nurtured, supported and mentored your youngsters and she will miss working directly with them. Mrs Moore, Miss Kendall and I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to all of our Year 8's for all the memories from the past two years – it has been extremely rewarding to be a part of your journey at Lees Brook. We wish each and every one of you the best of luck as you start your GCSE's.

Unfortunately at the end this academic year, we will be saying farewell to an amazing form tutor from our Year 8 team – Mr Dyson. I am sure students in his tutor group and their parents will thank him for the incredible support and encouragement they have given to the form since they joined in Year 7. Mrs Hibbert will also be leaving the Year 8 team to join the Year 10 form tutors, I would like to thank Mrs Hibbert for all her support and hardwork this year, as a Year 8 form tutor. I would like to welcome Miss Kendall back to the team who will return to the year group with the tutor group 9KEG, previously Mr Dyson's form group along with Ms Morton-Riley. In addition, the year 9 team will be joined by Mr Hatton and Mrs Cherry. The form tutors for most other tutor groups will be remaining the same as they have been this year:

Year 8 Tutor Group Name	Year 9 Form Tutor	Year 9 Tutor Group Name
8BRC	Mrs Brookes	9BRC
8DOR	Mr Donnor	9DOR
8DSL	Miss Kendall and Ms Morton-Riley	9KEG
8HIJ	Mr Hillary	9HIJ
8INC	Mr Ingram	9INC
8LOS	Mr J Hatton	9HAJ
8OLE	Miss Oldfield and Mrs Cherry	9OLE
8ROL	Miss Rose	9ROL

As ever, it is vitally important that your child is set up for success when they return to school on Monday 6th September 2021. Please ensure that your child has all the necessary uniform, PE/dance kit and other equipment that they will need for learning. I am sure you are aware of the required items by now – however if you would like to check, full details of these are available via our website: http://leesbrook.co.uk/images/Websitefiles/2021/GeneralInformation/School_brochure_2021.pdf

As this will be the final letter that I'll be writing to you all in my capacity as Head of Year, I wanted to express how much of an honor and a privilege it has been to have worked with so many amazing young people over the last year whilst being their Head of Year. It has been a genuine pleasure to have been Head of Year 8, whilst Miss Kendall has been on maternity leave, and to have had the opportunity to work with such amazing, resilient young people.

I would like to take this final opportunity to wish your child, you and your family a happy and safe summer holiday and I look forward to seeing all students back in school in September.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Hill
Head of Year 8