

22 July 2021

Dear Parent

### **Year 9 - End of Summer Term and Academic Year 2020/21**

It almost goes without saying that it has been a very strange year at Lees Brook. Covid-19 has had an impact on almost every aspect of school life. Staff and students have had to get used to working in ways that have felt very different and I want to once again express my thanks to all students in the Year group for the way that they have embraced these fully, helping ensure everyone can learn safely and securely whilst at school.

It has been a real privilege to see every student in the Year group embrace the school motto 'Lead, Believe, Create, Succeed'. Almost every student in Year 9 has participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award which is unique within the county. I would like to thank Mr Waterhouse for organising this amazing opportunity. Every student has something to be proud of from their efforts 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 every student in the Year group.

Looking ahead to next year, students will return to school the week beginning Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September are INSET days and 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 extracurricular 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 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 9 are and look forward to seeing all students making a positive first impression in September. Mrs Massey will be taking on a new role of Student Support Mentor from September. She will be supporting students from all year groups as part of the pastoral team. I would like to thank Mrs Massey for all of her support, not only with our students, but staff alike. Since taking on the role of this year group's Learning Behaviour Manager, Mrs Massey has nurtured, supported and mentored your youngsters and she will miss working directly with them. Mrs Massey and I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to all of our year 9's for all the memories and challenges – it has been extremely rewarding to be a part of your Key Stage 3 years. We wish each and every one of them the best of luck in their GCSE's. They should enjoy their summer break and come back ready to take on the new challenges that come with Year 10.

Additionally this year, we will be saying farewell to two amazing form tutors from our Year 9 team – Mr Eyre and Mrs Brown. I am sure students in their tutor groups and their parents will join me in wishing both members of staff well for the future and thank them for the incredible support and encouragement they have given to Year 9 throughout the past 3 years. I would like to welcome Mr Hill back to the team who will return to his tutor group. In addition, the year 10 team will be joined by Mr Brown as the new form tutor for 10BWD (previously 9BRT) and Mrs Hibbert and Miss Miljkovic who will be the new form tutors of 10HIS (previously 9EYR). The form tutors for most other tutor groups will be remaining the same as they have been this year:

Year 9 Tutor Group Name	Year 10 Form Tutor	Year 10 Tutor Group Name
9SAD	Miss D Silva	10SAD
9HIM	Mr M Hill	10HIM
9BRT	Mr D Brown	10BWD
9EYR	Mrs S Hibbert & Ms N Miljkovic	10HIS
9WIJ	Miss J Williams	10WIJ
9FUA	Mrs A Furness	10FUA
9WLM	Mr Walsh	10WLM
9MAS	Miss S MacLeod	10MAS

As ever, it is vitally important that your child is set up for success when they return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://leesbrook.co.uk/images/Websitefiles/2021/GeneralInformation/School_brochure_2021.pdf)

As this will be the final letter that I write to you all in my capacity as Head of Year, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for your support over the past few years. It has been a genuine pleasure to have been Head of Year 9 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.

Yours sincerely,



**Rachael Morton Riley**  
Head of Year 9