

20 July 2020

Dear Parent

### **Year 8 Summer Term End of Year Letter**

As we come to the end of what can only be described as an unprecedented school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support with remote learning. As a parent I appreciate how demanding it is supporting our children with their learning, trying to establish and maintain a healthy routine as well as running the home alongside working. We have all had to adapt, especially our youngsters, during such challenging circumstances.

I am extremely proud of my year group for their resilience and hard work during the lockdown period and I am looking forward to seeing all youngsters back in school from September.

#### **Face to Face Days**

Many youngsters have been in school recently to meet with their form tutors where they have had the opportunity to discuss their experience as well as share any concerns they might have. When we all return in September it will be a very different environment so tutors have valued the opportunity to meet with youngsters in person as part of the school's preparation for the new academic year.

#### **A look back at the year**

Despite having had the last few months severely disrupted, it is important to acknowledge that Year 8 youngsters had the opportunity earlier in the year to participate in a wide range of events. Back in December we visited the Ski Centre at Swadlincote and many youngsters performed amazingly in the school production of 'Grease'. We also participated in the following enrichment activities:

Vodafone Challenge - Youngsters visited the Vodafone head office and had a tour of the site with the opportunity to interact and question staff, including the company CEO. Participants also had an interactive workshop where they had to create an innovative design for a new phone app to help the local community.

Science Curriculum project - All of Year 8, as part of their science lessons, engaged in lessons which were jointly planned by science teaching staff and employees from GF Tomlinson and Couch Perry Wilkes. The focus of the project was on energy and developing energy efficient buildings.

Tomorrow's Engineers – All of Year 8 took part in a carousel of interactive workshops to help engage them with engineering and engineering careers. Workshops included: tower building, robotics and creative design sessions as well as preparation for the Big Bang competition. Students enthusiastically took part and gained knowledge as well as transferable skills.

Derby University Skills Challenge - A group of Year 8 youngsters took part in the skills challenge which aims to promote and develop transferable skills and challenge gender stereotypes around certain careers. There was a competitive element to the sessions, with Lees Brook students excelling and finishing tied for first place.

### **New School Year**

Entering Year 9 is an important step at Lees Brook; youngsters have already picked their options and will begin GCSE preparation, therefore it is vitally important that they are engaged and focused when they return in September. As new announcements are being made by the Government we are adapting plans to make our return as safe and smooth as possible and as new information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

We hope to continue to offer our youngsters as many opportunities as possible in Year 9 and I am delighted that staff are already preparing for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. All of Year 9 will be invited to participate in this fantastic scheme and have the opportunity to discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends and gain essential skills and attributes for work and life. I am sure that you will agree that it is more important than ever that our youngsters embrace this opportunity and more information will follow shortly.

### **Form Tutor Changes**

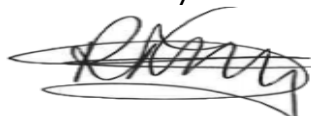
It is with a heavy heart that we have to say goodbye to one of our Year 8 form tutors, Miss Leonard, as she is moving on to a teaching position that will allow her to teach A-Level. Miss Leonard has been a valued member of the science faculty and form tutor team for the past three years. During those three years she has made a positive contribution to the science department, running study support sessions for students, organising visits to the science departments at The University of Nottingham and mentoring trainee teachers. Miss Leonard has always had very high expectations for her tutor group and science classes and youngsters have responded positively, worked hard and produced work of a high standard. Through these high expectations, she has built strong and positive relationships with youngsters in her care and I would like to thank her for everything that she has done over the years.

From September Mr. Hill will be moving on to the position of acting Head of Year 8 and we have a new member of staff, Miss Marciano, who will be looking after his tutor group. I am sure Mr. Hill will still check in on his tutor group and will discuss the change with you when he makes his final call to you before the summer holiday.

I would like to welcome Miss Silva who will be taking over from Miss Leonard. Many youngsters in 8LNS have already had face to face meetings with Miss Silva and we are looking forward to having her on our team. I would also like to welcome Mrs. Harris who will be joining Mrs. Brown (BRT) and Mr. Fernyhough who will be joining Mr. Eyre (EYR) with their tutor groups.

Finally, thank you again for your support and please continue to encourage your youngster to stay active and healthy over the summer break. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone back in school in September and wish you all a safe and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely



Ms R Morton Riley  
Head of Year 8