

10 July 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. What a year. These past few months have certainly been unprecedented and far from what we would have expected the academic year to look like when it began in September. I want to start off by saying I am immensely proud of each and every one of my year group on the resilience shown under an extremely unusual set of circumstances. The students make the school what it is and we've missed them. I also want to thank you for all the help and support you've given during this remote learning period, to keep your child safe, well and healthy. I am sure some of you have discovered your inner teacher! 2020 has certainly been a truly unique year and one that will go down in history.

#### Face to Face Days

It has been lovely seeing students back in school for face to face meetings with staff, following guidance from the government. We believe they've been so important in engaging students and checking on their wellbeing during our time in remote learning. I can't believe how much some have changed! School will be a very different place on their return and it is important students are aware of this before starting back in September. Plans are currently being worked on by the Northworthy Trust and will be with you shortly.

#### New Year

The end of Year 9 means the end of Key Stage 3. Students will be moving on to Key Stage 4 and GCSE courses from September. As a school we've tried to support this transition by moving the timetable forward. This has been in place since May and it has been lovely seeing the engagement in the GCSE work and the quality being produced. This will only benefit students on their return to school. The start of Key Stage 4 is a chance for most students to continue to work hard towards their exams at the end of year 11 and for other students they can have a fresh start studying courses that they have chosen to do.

In year 10, students usually have a week of work experience. This is something that not many other school in Derby still offer but we see the value in students experiencing the world of work. With the current circumstances affecting the country this event may be effected and more information will follow in due course.

#### Duke of Edinburgh

I would like to return to one of the stand out achievement of the year, which is the participation of 88 students in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Every student involved has shown real determination to complete their skill, physical and volunteering section of the award, during lockdown. They will shortly receive a special certificate to recognise their efforts. The main expedition will be arranged at a time when it is safe to do so.

#### Form changes

There will be some changes to the form tutor team in September. I'd like to welcome back Mrs Aubery who has returned from maternity leave and will take over Miss Tallis, while she is off on maternity. Mrs Livingstone will be supporting Mr Gates and Mrs Gaughan will be joining Miss

Randle. I'd like to thank Miss Riley, Miss Silva, Mr Thompson and Mrs Wilsoncroft who have been fantastic form tutors and support for the team. They will join the Year 7 team as main tutors at an incredible important time for their transition. They will do an awesome job.

Finally, please encourage students to stay active and healthy over the summer break so they are in the best place possible to return. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone back in September.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ben Taylor  
Head of Year 9