



30 March 2020

Re: Staying in Touch

Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers

It is important to us to stay connected with our Year 11 students through these strange times, after all in normal circumstances they would still be in our care throughout every school day at this time of year and right through to June!

A number of staff, including the Headteacher and Heads of Year, are reaching out to the year group with messages of farewell and encouragement, plus some good ideas of things to do, things to read, ways to prepare for the future and so on. We shared with you the email from Mrs Pearce recently about [preparing a CV](#), for example, and their Tutors are sending out Weekly Well-being messages which they would really love to have replies to, even if it is just a classic teenage one-liner.

Additionally, young people of this age need to recognise that email is the medium of choice for most professional situations - the College they attend, any work they might take up, and all the boring adult business in their futures of having contracts, agreements, policies and so on, will all be conducted over email. So they DO need to embrace this to at least some extent.

We need your help! We are asking you to please insist that your son or daughter checks their school email inbox once a day, and takes a few minutes to respond to anything that requires a reply. It's good training for adulthood.

Right now, we are also asking **you** to do a couple of things:

1. We need their orders for **Leavers Hoodies** before 1 May (£22). Click [here to choose the colour, size and name they want](#), and go to [ParentPay](#) to make your payment. We can only place ONE order, so if you miss this deadline there's no solution. Colours can be browsed [here](#), and students were emailed this information directly. *Payments must be made before that deadline too.*
2. Mrs Davies urgently needs content for the **Year Book** – see the message below she sent out to students last week. Each student needs to submit a **quote** that will be placed alongside their picture in the Year Book, and can email to [Mrs Davies](#) any **school-related photos** they may have that would be good to publish. You should also make payment for this as soon as you can via [ParentPay](#) (£20).

If you have already paid for the Prom Package, please don't worry - we will be able to refund the Prom element of this once it becomes clear whether or not we can hold a celebration for this cohort nearer to the summer.

Finally, please stay in touch with us yourselves, we are here to help. [Mrs Davies](#) and [Mr Chase](#) are your first port-of-call as Heads of Year, but [Mrs Pearce](#) is also keen to support in any way she can with concerns and queries over next steps for the future, and all the [tutors and subject staff](#) would be happy to provide advice and ideas within their specialist areas if they can.

Some photos to raise a smile of the students messing around together on their final day with us, can be [found here](#) and [here](#) – showing just what a close, special and funny group of young people they are. Enjoy!



COPY of Message Sent to Students, From Mrs Davies, 25 March

Dear Year 11

I hope that you are all safe and well at home and looking after yourselves and families at this very strange time.

Firstly can I start by saying what a fabulous bunch of young adults you have all matured into. I know that I have not always made popular decisions and because of this there are many of you that did not feel I liked you or picked on you, I can honestly say that this is not true and I will look back on the past 5 years with you fondly with many happy memories. I have done my best to teach you right from wrong and hope that you have all learnt many lessons along the way and will become stronger and more resilient as a result of it.

I cannot believe that our time together was brought to such an abrupt end and as much as this has been tough on you, believe me it has felt just as strange for me. I had many plans for our remaining time together and it is a shame that we were unable to fulfil all of these but as soon as all of this madness passes and we are able to, we will hold a final farewell which hopefully you will all be able to be a part of. There was a huge mix of emotions of the last day and I will admit that I shed a tear or two as you all departed. I feel sad that we were not able to all be together for this, but I have tried to capture some of the memories in the collages attached.

I am continuing to persevere with the year book and hoodie orders so please ask parents to order these as per the usual process on parent pay. For now do not worry about prom payments as how this will look is currently unknown, do not worry if you have paid we will sort this once things are clear.

In order to help me complete the year book please can you do the following:

- Send me your quotes if you have not already passed them on to your tutors or Reanna – I think she was going round last week.
- Email any pictures that you would like to be considered to be included in the year books – these could be pictures from year 7, school trips, sports groups, drama productions etc.

I hope that you are all managing to work some form of structure into your days, I encourage you to keep up some form of learning at this time to keep your brains ticking. Perhaps try to learn something new or do some reading around a subject that you wish to take post 16. This will really help at this strange time. Of course there is always the Joe wicks morning PE session at 9 am to get you motivated each day, it would not be right for me to leave this out -PE teacher through and through!

I wish you all well and look forwards to emailing you, hopefully sooner rather than later, with a date for a final farewell.

Stay Safe, keep in touch.

Kind Regards

Mrs Davis