

JCM/jr
July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 9 – End of Year Letter

Here we are again at the end of another brilliant year - this time waving goodbye to Year 9.

After my first full year with our cohort, I am thrilled to continue the positivity from last year's letter and celebrate some of our year's successes with you. It has been a challenging but extremely positive year for so many of our cohort.

Year 9 is not an easy year, something we all understand. No longer in KS3, the expectations are higher, lesson content can be trickier, mock exam experiences new, but our cohort has made us proud with their willingness to adapt and overcome.

Yet again, the Wildern Awards evening has been the jewel in our Year 9 crown this year. Our cohort has shown a steely amount of determination, incredible work ethic and phenomenal talent therefore it is only fitting that we have been able to again celebrate this with them. Mr Morrison, myself and our brilliant year team of tutors are delighted that we can celebrate this with them.

Through discussions with senior leaders it has become clear that many of our young people in Year 9 are already well on route to achieving their target grades when they come to the end of their Wildern journey. Whilst monitoring progress using WAD and Eref data, the year team have continued conversations with both students and families and we would like to continue these discussions with you into Year 10. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year 9 to 10 Information Evening on Tuesday 11 July 2023.

We would like to thank parents and guardians for their support in ensuring students come to school fully prepared for the day's work. We are, of course, beginning to think about Year 10 in September. The shops will soon be full of 'Back to School' equipment and clothes. Please support the school and your son or daughter by making sure that they begin the term properly by:

- Having a sensible bag and pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.
- Wearing correct school uniform – black leather shoes (no logos and not trainers).
- Full details of school uniform including PE kit and acceptable shoe styles, can be found on the school website.
- Correct adherence to make-up, jewellery and hair cut policies.

It is important that expectations are the same for all students to make sure that our minimum standard policies are fair and consistent. Your support here is absolutely crucial and very much appreciated. While discussing your support, it would be only right to highlight the importance that attendance plays here. For best results, we know that students need to be inside of our classrooms and participating. This is something that the vast majority of our cohort does every single day - something we are again very proud of - and we thank you for your encouragement and assistance with this!

I think it is also worth spending some time over the summer reflecting on your son/daughter's Year 9 experience, discussing the many successes and the potential areas where there may be room for

improvement as we head into Year 10 to ensure the most successful year possible. Now that our cohort have experienced their first 'secondary school exams' in the form of the mock exam week we had in May, we definitely understand if there is worry and pressure heading into this next year. We continue to feel confident that through your support and the students' focus we can expect amazing things!

I wanted to extend a personal thank you to our brilliant tutor team and the fantastic Mr Morrison for continuing to support our Year 9s this year. Our students continue to benefit from the amazing work our dedicated group of tutors do. They continue to ensure all their tutees have the best possible pastoral care which allows all students to thrive in all aspects of their school life.

Please continue to reach out to your child's tutor as your 'first port of call' for any worries or questions. Each day the tutors are often the first teacher to greet your child, to check in, ensuring all minimum standards are met, each of our tutors have been instrumental in ensuring we as a year group have succeeded in another really positive year at Wildern.

Unfortunately, as is common at this time of year, we will be saying goodbye to three of our team at the end of term; Mr Marshall, Miss Jones and Miss Dobbs. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication as part of our tutor team and I am sure you join me in wishing them the very best of luck for the future.

Moving on up into Year 10 will help secure the knowledge your children have already developed and learned through their first year of their GCSE courses. I hope you agree that your child has already expanded their subject knowledge in specific areas, has grown in confidence and perhaps even considered the links to their future aspirations. We hope that they are also able to experience the vast opportunities and enrichments Wildern has to offer; trips, extra-curricular clubs, the school production, showcases and a plethora of other opportunities.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your child to their 'Meeting Me' conversations on 5 or 6 September 2023 with Year 10 returning on Thursday 7 September 2023 rejuvenated for the challenges that lay ahead.

Finally, I would like to once again thank you for all your support and wish you a relaxing summer break enjoying the hopefully brilliant weather!

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Marshall
Director of Progress and Achievement - Year 9 (almost 10!)