

ZCK/jr  
July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 8 – End of Year Letter**

At the end of each academic year we like to reflect on the challenges and successes we have had whilst being in Year 8. What a year it has been! I know that Year 8 can be a challenging year, being their second year at Wildern, with expectations of behaviour, self-study and level of work increasing. Despite these challenges all of the students have made me feel extremely welcome thanks to the great nature of our young people in our cohort, so thank you.

Our motto for the year group has been ‘You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending’. It has been so pleasing to see so many of the students embrace this throughout the year. The students have continued to show their fantastic individual personalities both in and out of the classroom. Through monitoring using WAD and Eref data, the year team have continued to have positive conversations with many of our young people this last term as we continue to develop our year group culture.

We would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring students come to school fully prepared for the day’s work. As we start to think about September, I thought it was important to share a few reminders as students’ will really need to hit the ground running for the start of Year 9.

- Attendance will be a crucial factor in future success, especially now your child will start their pathways in the new academic year. We of course understand that students will get ill along the way and face issues which may see them miss some schooling, however, please make sure any problems or concerns are reported to school so support can be offered where necessary.
- 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 school bag, black and green pens, pencil, ruler and calculator.
  - Wearing correct school uniform – Full details of our school uniform including PE kit and acceptable shoe styles, can be found on the school website.

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.

I think it is also worth spending some time over the summer reflecting on your son/daughter's Year 8 experience, discussing the many successes and the potential areas where there may be room for improvement as we head into Year 9 to ensure the most successful year possible. We understand there is likely to be an amount of apprehension here from students due to the pressure felt at GCSE level but we are confident that through your support and the students focus we can expect amazing things!

We are so extremely lucky to have a brilliant tutor team working for our students in our cohort and 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, a new academic year does bring some staffing changes and we will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Brooks and Miss Haskett, who have worked tirelessly for their tutor groups and we wish them all the best in their new roles. Of course the other change is that Miss Wiley will no longer be ADOPA. I am sure you will join me in wishing her good luck in her new role as Head of Faculty for Performing Arts at a school in Kent. Miss Wiley has been a superb support to students, tutors and myself over the last academic year, I cannot thank her enough for all of her work, and she will be missed. Mrs Thomas will be joining the year group from September, she is an experienced ADOPA, previously working with last year's Year 11 and the current Year 7, and I know she will be a fantastic support to the year group.

Year 9 is a crucial year in laying the foundations for GCSE. It will be a welcome opportunity for all students to come out of their shells, expanding their subject knowledge in specific areas linked to their aspirations and bright futures. We hope that they are also able to experience the vast opportunities Wildern has to offer; trips, extra-curricular clubs, the school production, showcases and a plethora of other opportunities.

I look forward to the students returning for their 'Meeting Me' conversations and then in full, ready and 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! We cannot wait for next year's adventure in Year 9.

Yours faithfully

Mr Z Kinnaird  
Director of Progress and Achievement - Year 8