

14 July 2020

Dear *Student*

RE: Year 12 End of Term letter

I hope that you continue to be well and that you are enjoying some new opportunities in light of lockdown restrictions changing. As we draw to the end of what has been an unprecedented and strange academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to let you know how proud I am of how you have responded to the challenges that we have faced. As a year group you have all adapted incredibly well and have regularly been making the right decisions about how to approach your work. The Sixth Form teaching staff have been impressed with your resilience and diligence and I know that this conscientious approach to keeping on top of your work will serve to help you to be successful next summer.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you back to school on a full time basis in September; although how we manage our usual day to day routines will need to be different. We will be doing everything we can to make the Sixth Form experience an enjoyable and supportive one, ensuring that over the next academic year we do all we can to prepare you for the examinations and to enable you to access the destination you are aspiring to.

Please take time this summer to rest and recharge in preparation for Year 13. Staff will not be setting swathes of new work to complete, but I appreciate that some of you may take some time to consolidate this year's learning and possibly to look ahead to what topics you will cover next year.

In September we will begin our face to face support process for university and apprenticeship applications in earnest. I appreciate that it is frustrating that you have been unable to attend the usual range of open days, but please continue to make use of online services provided by the university. You will be in a strong position to proceed in September if you have used the materials we sent out earlier in the term to carry out research and decide on the subject (or subjects if you consider a joint degree) you may wish to study, or the area in which you wish to seek an apprenticeship. It would also be helpful if you have chosen 4-5 institutions that you are interested in. However I appreciate that all of this can be difficult and even if you return to the Sixth Form with none of this done, do not be concerned, we will be able to help you discover your potential next steps with some targeted support in September. Finally you may wish to draft some initial ideas for your personal statement. There are many examples available online, but the basic structure below may help you to generate some ideas:

Paragraph 1 – Outline what subject you hope to study and why you want to study it. What interests/excites/inspires you about it? Where do you hope the study of it may take you.

Paragraph 2 – Outline how your subjects have helped you to develop the skills to be successful on the course. How have they complemented and enhanced your interest and ability in that subject area. How have any other enrichment experiences helped you to further your interest/skills in that subject area (work experience, books read, places visited)

Paragraph 3 – This is your personal paragraph. Talk about your interests, hobbies and wider experiences. How have these influenced who you are and how you are? This is the paragraph to reference and explain your “soft skills”. What kind of all-round individual are they getting.

Paragraph 4 – This should echo your first paragraph, without repeating it. It should reaffirm your interest in the subject you hope to study and underline your commitment to the study of it at University.

If you have any further queries regarding next year, or your future destinations please contact me on dandrews@driffieldschool.org.uk.

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer.

Take care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Andrews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Andrews
Head of Sixth Form