



5 April 2019

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 8 End of Spring Term Letter

When reflecting upon the progress of Year 8 so far, I am filled with tremendous pride at the drive, focus and maturity that the students have shown during their Options Choices. The decision is certainly not an easy one, with such a wide variety of GCSEs for students to choose from, but it is one that students have made confidently. Students have had the opportunity to take part in 'Taster Sessions' for new subjects such as Sociology, Health and Social Care, with Business Studies having an outstanding attendance of sessions. I would like to thank all the parents and carers of Year 8 students for their support during this time, through their attendance of the Year 8 Options Evening, Parents' Evening and, for many, the Options Interviews.

Although the process of selecting their options has been the main focus of many students this term, it is fantastic to see students engaging in such a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The Year 8 Band was particularly impressive during their lunchtime performances to the College during Science Week, and in honour of National Science Week, all students had the opportunity to enjoy a Science Week Rocket Show. Many students have had the privilege of attending a workshop with Adisa Andwele, a visiting author and poet, as a reward for their successes on the Book Quest. I am thrilled to see that many of these students are furthering their reading by now participating in the Carnegie Challenge - another fantastic opportunity. Moreover, congratulations must be given to Miss Ash's Tutor Group, 8YSH for their triumph in the World Book Day Fancy Dress Competition.

Meanwhile, Year 8 has also seen great successes in their sporting endeavours with the Year 8 Boys' Rugby team coming top of their group at the Rosslyn Park 7s after winning all of their games; and the Year 8 Under 13 Girls' Futsal team seeing tremendous successes after winning all of their matches at the National Semi-Finals, making the team the first ever girls' team to represent the College in this sporting area to have reached a national final. Individual achievements in Swimming and Tennis are among the great sporting successes of the Year Group along with the successes of many other teams.

Finally, I would like to recognise the continued efforts of the Year Group to support the College charities, as well as national charity days. The superb efforts for Children in Need and Comic Relief have included car washing, bake sales and a sponsored Dance-a-Thon that alone raised over £300 - a special thank you goes to Mrs Gardiner for supporting their efforts. Year 8 have also been inspired in their efforts following visits from Graham Parkinson from the Mustard Tree, and Jason Ryder from Dame Hannah Rogers. I look forward to seeing the students continue to excel in their charity efforts. Well done to Year 8 Head Boy, Ciaran Ricketts, and Head Girl, Darcy Feeney, for leading endeavours in Charity and Teaching and Learning - your impact is already being felt.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Hanton
Head of Year 8

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