

24th May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Summer Term

Following a highly successful first 2 terms of Year 9 at The Blue School, the summer term offers a lot for our students. I shall outline below the key events and opportunities which will come the students' way in the coming weeks.

Firstly, it is important to reflect on the many successes last term. The fantastic School Production of Grease contained many Year 9 students both on stage and backstage which was brilliant to see. The Spring Concert included an impressive number of Year 9 and this was an extremely enjoyable evening for all who were present. I was also privileged to accompany over 50 of our students on the Battlefields visit to Belgium and France where both the behaviour and level of learning was excellent. A significant number of our students were also able to take part in another hugely enjoyable and successful ski-trip during the Easter Holidays. All of this proves we have a very well-motivated, talented and hard-working year group in many areas of school life.

Enrichment

Year 9 students were given first choices in the school's inaugural enrichment week, which has a huge variety of activities on offer and promises to be a superb end to the school year. The enrichment programme for Year 9 also has some new activities and many students are taking advantage of these.

The 78 students enrolled continue to plan for the expedition part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, the vast majority of whom have already completed at least 2 strands of the award. The practice expedition taught the students a lot of navigation skills and camp-craft, which will be put to good use in their assessed expedition at the start of July.

PSHE and Key Stage 4 Options

The options process ran very smoothly and I would like to thank all students, parents and carers for the thoughtful way this was carried out. All students have had a follow-up interview with a member of senior leadership or myself and it was very clear from the mature way in which the students spoke that a lot of thought has already gone into preparing for future education and careers beyond GCSE. If there are any remaining questions about KS4 options please do not hesitate to ask Mr Williams or myself.

Attendance, punctuality and uniform

The Year 9 team would very much like to thank you for your support regarding all of the above. There has been one attendance reward of an end of term film and this will continue. I am pleased that our year group attendance is increasing but I continue to urge all students, parents and carers to ensure that attendance is as high as possible for all. We have received a lot of positive feedback about how much smarter the students are in the new uniform. May I also take this opportunity to remind you that all students are expected to be in the new uniform entirely by September of Year 10. Please note we are very strictly adhering to the policy particularly on shoes (plain, black, polishable, logo-free), skirts (must not be short, tight or lycra) and trousers (trousers must be school/formal style – no jeans/leggings etc). Please refer to the parents/carers → uniform section of the school website or contact myself or your child's tutor if unsure.

Forthcoming Events

In addition to Enrichment Week and DoFE, the coming half-term offers all students the opportunity to take part in a second 'World of Work' day, this time aimed at teambuilding and careers-planning. The students will be working on their first curriculum vitae and will visit a 'job-shop' from where they will choose a job and have a mock interview. We thank the many local employers for giving up their time in order to help our students. There will also be large group team-building exercises outdoors so we hope for good weather on July 4th. The annual Sports' Day will also take place towards the end of this term so good luck to all participants.

New Members of the Year 9 Community

We continue to welcome new students into our community and I would like to thank our current students for being so helpful to them.

'Hard work will always beat talent if talent doesn't work hard'

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

Alan Bazeley
Pastoral Team Leader Y9