



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear Year 11

As your time with us at West Park and indeed your time in compulsory schooling draws to an end, there is so much to be grateful for. You have overcome significant challenges, challenges that have never been faced by young people before, which have allowed you to stand proudly on a springboard to success. It is hard for you to imagine the impact that the next few weeks can have on your future at the age of just 15 or 16, but the actions that you take over the next 85 days will resonate through the next months, years and even decades of your life.

Until now, you have existed in a controlled environment provided for by loving and committed parents/carers and supported by a school that truly wants the very best for you. There is an excitement about reaching this stage and all the new freedoms that leaving school will bring, but every year, as pupils file out of the gate for the very last time, there is a realisation that they have been part of something very special, something that will never be replicated again. As you walk down towards Acorn Way or up West Road you will be faced with the longest summer of your lives, a long 11-week summer that will only be punctuated by your results day on Thursday 22nd August.

As summer passes and you slide confidently through July and into August, results day will suddenly appear in your rear-view mirror and despite your best efforts it just won't go away. I can clearly remember the build up to my own results day and my internal battle of knowing that I could have fought a little harder, worked a little longer and focussed a little more, as I prepared for my Year 11 exams. I still gulp and feel anxious when I think of taking 4 attempts to open my brown envelope. As you stand, waiting to open that envelope, what is done is done and you can only hope that you have done enough. Don't fixate on these terminal outcomes but focus on what you can do between now and that first exam that can make the difference. Fully engage with that revision session, complete another GCSE Pod, develop another set of flash cards, ask a member of staff to clarify a misconception. Ultimately, just do your best!

Give these next few weeks everything, be determined, be committed, be ambitious and be positive, but also take the time to rest, recuperate and enjoy time with friends and family as you go.

Nothing has been written in your brown envelope yet, and you still have time to control that content. Don't shy away from the challenge but embrace it because there is only ever one of you and this is your time to shine.

Have an incredible Easter Year 11 and make sure that you are standing in W-Block playground safe in the knowledge that you have done everything that you can for **YOU** to smash **YOUR** exams!

Kind regards

Scott McGregor
Head