

Our Ref : CM/pk

16 July 2021

Dear Secondary,

It is always quite an emotional day when we say goodbye to you all at the end of an academic year.

Because of circumstances, there have been many things we have not been able to do and many things we have had to adapt.

I do however want you to leave with this message.

We are proud of what you have achieved over the last year and the way you have gone about it. Yours are the year groups who have focused on your studies whilst people around you were shouting about how education has been severely impacted by lockdowns. And yours are the year groups who time and time again amazed and impressed the staff at this school by bouncing back every time.

In the future you may be in a situation with someone assessing you, looking at the grades you have achieved. They may have some questions about them, earned as they were, through this year's system and following two years of disrupted schooling. I would recommend you tell whoever this may be that yes, I did study these courses through the pandemic and let me tell you what that means.

That means I got up and in front of my computer every day to complete my live lessons and to complete all my work. That means I kept a constant stream of communication open with all my teachers throughout the lockdowns so that I didn't fall behind.

I was a young person who couldn't go out as it was against the law and everything was closed, I was a young person who had to sit in classrooms in a mask and I was a young person who had to get used to growing up in a country that was scared and fearful.

Yet I adapted : to studying alone at home with my computer, to not seeing my friends, to a constantly changing set of rules, and to having to hear politicians arguing about how messed up my education has been and yet here I am. Successful.

I have a set of skills that no other year groups before me have ever had, I am resilient to everything that has been thrown at me, I have had to work independently and I have made progress through my own hard work so don't, for a second, doubt me.

That aside – do not let this situation define you. For years to come, you will be those year groups that were incredibly disrupted and that you will go down in history for it.

Michelle Obama once said

“Success is only meaningful and enjoyable if it feels like your own”.

So I say to you all as you leave today, thank you for being your best self and have a lovely summer break.

With very best wishes



Mrs Marshall
Headteacher

