



17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Autumn Term Christmas Letter – Year 9

For Year 9 students this term has been extremely challenging and I would like to start by thanking you all for your ongoing support during such unprecedented times. Not only have students had to try and adapt to longer lesson times, they have also had to find new ways of accessing the curriculum when it has been necessary to self-isolate. Conduct around the school and in lessons overall has been fantastic and I have had the pleasure of observing excellent work produced by our very talented and hardworking students. Attendance at live lessons during isolation periods has also been very high, with both teachers and students commenting on how positive the live lesson experience was for learning.

As I write this letter, Year 9 students have earned a staggering 61134 positive points over the last 12 weeks with 13 R3's awarded for exceptional and outstanding work/effort. Despite the challenges that all students have faced due to Covid-19, one third of Year 9 students have zero behaviour points. Please continue to interact with ClassCharts at home to understand how your youngster is doing day to day. Class teachers and form tutors are always willing to take your call if you have any concerns. Remember the new term in January is a fresh start for everyone- which is the great thing about school. Everyone is able to achieve, no matter what their starting points.

One important request is that students have their own equipment in school as sharing of equipment has been identified as a way that Coronavirus can be spread in schools. Please ensure that your youngster has everything they need each day.

I would like to thank Mr Waterhouse for securing funding which enables all Year 9 students to enrol onto the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. As you may be aware, Lees Brook Community School is the only school in Derby to enrol a full year group on to this well regarded programme. Lees Brook has also maintained a very high completion rate for the award and last year, more young people achieved the Bronze award at Lees Brook than in any other school in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. As well as an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives, students will have the opportunity to discover new interests and talents, as well as gain essential skills and attributes for work and life. Please encourage your youngster to complete activities for each element of the Award and to upload their evidence via the **edeofe** app.

Coming up in the Spring Term:

04/01/21	INSET day for staff
04/02/21	Year 9 Subject Evening/Options Evening t.b.c.
12/02/21	Half term ends
22/02/21	Spring Term second half begins
01/04/21	Spring Term ends



Finally, I hope that you all manage to have a happy holiday and that you are able to see friends and family whilst observing government guidance. Please stay safe and take care of each other.

Yours faithfully

Rachael Morton Riley (Head of Year 9)