



16th July 2020

Dear Parents, carers and students,

A huge thanks from us all

Well, we've made it to the last day of what has currently been the strangest six months of my professional career. And we have made it this far because of your support, encouragement and patience and I would like to extend the sincerest of thanks to you all on behalf of everyone here at Bridgewater High School for everything you have done.

- I want to thank Y11 students who have arguably had the hardest deal, for your resilience and optimism. If you train hard for a competition, there's nothing worse than finding out the competition is cancelled and that's what it must feel like in terms of GCSEs. And then there was that sudden end to formal schooling at Bridgewater. I can still vividly remember walking round with Mr Powell and Mr Norman saying goodbye to you with that optimistic but naïve hope that maybe this was all a dream. But I know you will find a way to overcome these challenges and I know you will bounce back and I look forward to seeing you all on Results Day. Remember GCSEs are the consequence of years of learning and your foundations are rock solid.
- Year 7, you didn't get the full year but I can tell you what, the way you started the year and how you have worked under lockdown gives us every confidence that you will be one of our best years ever. So, chins up and let's look forward to a great Year 8!
- As for current Y8, we want you to be leading the way at the Lower School, leading by example, showing everyone what can be possible. We'll be looking to you for that maturity and ambition to get things back on track, so lead on!
- Year 9 when you get back and as you head to Upper remember there's all to play for as you start your GCSE courses. You have two years in front of you and there's nothing to stop you excelling.
- In terms of next year's Y11 you might be anxious and nervous about what you may have missed. Try not to be. Everyone in the country is in the same boat and we at Bridgewater will be leading the way in providing first class catch up and support, starting in the last week of the holidays when our refresher sessions begin and Mr Powell will be writing to you about that. Trust me, when you sit your GCSEs you will be the best prepared you can be.

Finally, I want to extend a huge thanks to all our parents and carers for everything you have done during lockdown to support your sons and daughter stay on track with their learning. All that cajoling to get teenagers out of bed and then all the support you will have given in terms of home schooling cannot be underestimated. We hugely appreciate your help, as we do the many supportive comments and suggestions you have made throughout this time which we have done our best to respond to. One thing is for sure, we have finished strongly courtesy of us all working together.

So, enjoy the summer and please check your emails especially in August when we will provide updates for the September opening. As ever stay safe and once again, many thanks for everything you have done to support the school and your sons and daughters during this lockdown period- we couldn't have done it without you!

Here's the video link: <https://youtu.be/4TvNdNZH1Rg>

Regards

Tim Long



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