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|  |  | 19 July 2023 |  |

Dear Year 13 students,

I wanted to write to you to let you know why I think you’re all so wonderful and why you have epitomised our philosophy that Post 16 students should be hardworking and resilient learners.

Your Key Stage 4 experience was far from ‘normal’. You weathered the pandemic storms of 2020-2022 at such a crucial time in your education, and have since gone on to achieve great things and focus yourselves. You may remember the news coverage of ‘lost learning, ‘gaps’ and the need for a ‘recovery curriculum’ throughout the pandemic and the periods of school closure and remote learning. The headlines described young people as a ‘lost generation’. I disagree with this sentiment wholeheartedly, as what it has taught us, is how we can adapt, and overcome big challenges.

You didn’t sit exams at the end of Year 11. The lack of exam experience in Sixth Form for many has been challenging, but you’ve done it, and are now out the other side! The step up of effort, revision, and study time in Year 13 was clear to see, and we as a Sixth Form team often commented on the change in the year group. Well done to all!

Despite being a small year group, they say, ‘good things come in small packages’, and that certainly resonates with this year group. Throughout the two years, you have shown kindness towards staff and fellow students, and generally have been a lovely group of young people to be around. The Sixth Form team and teachers will miss you very much, but we will also look forward to hearing about your accomplishments.

Some of you have chosen to stay a little longer into a third year, but for those of you who are leaving to study at university, take gap years, apprenticeships or employment, we wish you the very best of luck!

Some final tips to finish on:

1, Try to view life with a ‘glass half full’ mentality. Being positive often makes life’s challenges easier to handle.

2, Grasp the opportunities that come your way with self-belief. Even if something is daunting, trust that you are capable and try something new!

And finally

5, Cherish the friendships you have made here, your school friends are often your most long lasting and memorable even if you don’t realise it until you are much older.

You are always welcome back to school and please keep in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Mrs Milsom