

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Year 9 have had a fantastic year. I have been so impressed by their work ethic in lessons, their dedication to extra activities and clubs, and their support for each other.

Last month, I was fortunate to accompany the Battlefields trip to Ypres and the Somme which was both a fascinating and eye-opening experience. It was wonderful to see students so engaged in learning about WWI and to witness their maturity and consideration for others at such sensitive locations.

Sports day has been a highlight this week and the year group really stood out for their sports performances and for their encouragement for each other.

We had a huge number of students sign up for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and I know Mr Jackson is grateful for your support with keeping them on track with their volunteering and skill elements. We have been told recently that this cohort is the largest from schools in the South West. The expedition is often the highlight of the award for many and I'm looking forward to camping with the students next week!

On Monday, Y9s are taking part in an extra-curricular day – which will include a potentially lifesaving first aid course along with some challenges and activities in house competitions.

This week's data drop has seen another round of really great results and I'm impressed by the number of 'Commended' grades. Please do have a conversation with your child about their report, especially if your child has 'Coastings' or 'Serious Concerns' in core subjects or subjects they are continuing with next year.

I am really looking forward to seeing the students return in September – please note the below:

- Year 10 will return to school on Wednesday 3rd September (they are returning the same time as Y8,9,11,13 rather than a day earlier as in previous years)
- Students will start in tutor rooms on this day please ensure they know to be in their tutor room (unchanged from year 9) no later than 8.45am.

- No year 10 students have PE on Wednesday 3rd September, so all students are expected in wearing normal school uniform.
- All students in year 10 need to wear a blazer please source this ahead of the first day back to school. We do have some available in the second-hand uniform shop if this is helpful, and students are also welcome to try these on in school to confirm their size if you wish to order online from Stevensons.
- Year 10 will have individual photos taken on Wednesday 3rd September which will available for you to purchase afterwards if you wish.
- The Year 10 Parents' Information Evening will be on Wednesday 10th September at 6pm in the LRC I look forward to seeing you there!

I hope that your child has a great break can enjoy a well-deserved rest following a busy year.

Mrs Lindsay Head of Year 9 Farmor's School

