



Woodkirk Academy

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The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

Principal: **Mrs J Barton** BMus (Hons) MA NPQH

23 July 2021

Dear Parent

As we reach the close of the academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to thank you for your support during what has been a very challenging year. Students and staff have worked extremely hard to make it another successful one, despite the difficulties created by national and local restrictions. They are to be commended for the efforts they have made. Of particular note for me from this year were:

- Ensuring the safe return of our students last September with our robust protective measures. It was very impressive the way that both students and staff adapted to these measures and stuck to them all year; thank you
- The incredible efforts of staff during the second lockdown, to ensure that the impact on learning was minimised by delivering all lessons remotely and undertaking other support functions such as welfare checks, opening on site for more students and of course our student response;
- The mass testing in March. It was a sight to see, one that I never expected to in my career, with a real sense of community coming through high participation rates
- The success of the CAG (Centre Assessed Grades) processes this year which replaced the summer examination series. Students in examination year groups and staff have adapted to a very different method of assessment and have shown great flexibility and willingness; well done.
- The re-introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and some extra-curricular activities. Young people have missed out on so much so to be able to bring some of that enjoyment back during this term has been very pleasing.

What has shone through during this year, is the community spirit within the Academy. Everyone has wanted it to be the safe haven that allows our students to flourish. Staff across the Academy have, through their roles, done their absolute best to ensure this for our students. They, in turn, have played their part and shown tremendous resilience in minimising the impact of the pandemic on their education and future lives. I am extremely proud of all involved with Woodkirk Academy for their caring, purposeful and mature response to all they have faced over the year.

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Finally, I have felt enormously privileged to have been the Principal at Woodkirk over the last six years. It is a very special place. The commitment to 'Shaping Young Lives' through the dedication of all involved with the Academy is second to none. I know I leave it in excellent hands and would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Jones and his team the very best for the future. I will enjoy seeing Woodkirk progress further in my new role as CEO for the Trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Barton', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Barton
CEO Principal