



18 June 2020

Dear Year 8

Hello!

It's Miss Chandler and (a bigger, more wriggly) bump here, again! Since last writing to you, I have mastered two Adele songs on the piano, discovered some delicious vegan Vietnamese recipes, and I have developed an appreciation for deep breathing exercises, in preparation for having my baby, but also to cope with some of the gloomier moments in lockdown.

It has also been a pleasure to speak to your families regularly and I have enjoyed having a chat with a few of you on the phone too. Of course, I am checking that you are working hard and that you're managing to complete your learning at home, but also making sure that you're safe and well. Please make no mistake - your teachers know how strange and difficult these times have been for you and how hard so many of you have been working, in spite of this. As a result, I have been inundated with positive messages from your teachers this week, full of praise for your hard work, creativity and resilience when tackling your online learning.

In English, teachers have been impressed by your skills of analysis, knowledge of media terminology, and they have loved your innovative, humorous and well-considered films from the Jaws unit of work. They were also grateful to see so many of your family members stepping up to help direct, film or sometimes even star in the films themselves.

In Maths, Mr McDonald reports that many of you have engaged wonderfully with really important topics on solving equations, expanding brackets, and for some of you, calculating means, modes and medians – a topic I remember from school and a skill I still use regularly.

Geography has seen you using new key vocabulary to explain coastal processes, like wave-cut platforms and coastal drift, and Mrs Liles has been proud of many of you. In history, the tricky subject of social and political change in 19th century Britain has not phased you and you have shown intelligence when writing about complex topics on poverty, disease, education reform and the changing lives of women. Mrs Clout has been impressed with your maturity and the improvements so many of you have been determined to make to your work. She has emailed me about lots of you individually.

In Art, Mrs Gillespie has been thrilled by some very imaginative responses to TED talks and, in particular, some of the Anthony Gormley structures you have produced. Finally, Mr Milner Pearce has been astonished by the level of ingenuity in some of your monologues and pleased with the way you have started to use the new Bandlab software. All in all, plenty to praise you for!

In addition, if you're craving more opportunities for creativity or culture, this term some of your teachers will be setting up virtual school trips and a range of different enrichment style activities for you. These are designed to provide a wider range of experiences for you at home, so make sure you get involved with as many of them as you can.

And now, a little message from your form tutors:

Miss Higgins says

Hello 8H! I am missing seeing your faces! I hope you are all doing well and helping out at home where you can. Wishing you all the best. Look after yourselves and see you in Year 9!

Hello 8Y! I'm missing you all and I will be very sorry not to have our 'last day of school' picnic together this year. Please feel free to message me on SMHW to let me know what you've been up to. Keep working hard and doing yourselves (and me) proud. '

Miss Goodes says

Mr Roberts says

Hello 8A! These are tough times and I hope you are coping well at home, I'm sure the return of the football season will be a respite for some of you! Although you sometimes drive me mad in the mornings I am missing you all and am looking forward our return!

I'll leave you with a few extra time-passing ideas to boost your energy and self-esteem during the remainder of this term:

- Think of a cooking ingredient you have never tasted. Find and cook a recipe with it for your family – who knew how tasty sriracha sauce was on practically anything?
- Read up on the rules of a sport you've never understood and finally get your head around it – celebrate by watching classic matches/record breaking moments on YouTube.
- Plan and host a quiz for your friends/family on things you've learnt through SMHW this term and invite them to take part on Zoom - It's nice to show off your knowledge and be the expert.
- Learn how to say 'hello', 'please' and 'thank you' in a language whose country you'd like to visit when you're older – saying 'salama', with a smile, in Madagascar will see you welcomed and treated as a local!
- Get yourself a packet of seeds online or from a supermarket or garden centre, and see if you can grow your own fruit or vegetables. You'll be surprised how much you can grow in a small space or even on a windowsill.



In my little garden, I have grown spinach, strawberries and broad beans. Great for a snack when I am lounging in the sun at the weekend.

Finally from me, the most important message of all - stay safe, be kind to yourself and others, and you won't go too far wrong!

All the best

Miss Chandler
Head of Year 8