

17th July 2020

Dear Year 8 Student

It is with a heavy heart and regret that I have to say 'goodbye' to you through the medium of a letter instead of a Celebration Evening. However, the staff are clear, when we are COVID-19 free, we would really like the opportunity invite you back to Edwinstree to celebrate your time with us. You will receive our nominated awards and certificates through the post, but we will be keeping the trophies and our best suits and dresses ready for a Celebration Evening for you and your parents next year. We really want to be able to celebrate with you as a year group and to laugh, and possibly cry at your time with us. It is unlikely this will happen before Christmas, but as soon as we have clarity, we will send you an invitation.

As for me, there is something fitting about your year group being the one that will never leave Edwinstree. I look forward to seeing the whole year group marked out on the board in the hall with the montage of your faces hanging down from the ceiling for the new Year 5s to gawp at over the next year. You will always be in my heart, and now you will always be in the school hall! You have been the first year group I have had the privilege to be with from Year 5 children to the wonderful Year 8 young adults you have become. I will never forget meeting you in Collective Worship for the first time, and saying to you, *"You thought I was going to be your teacher and Head of Year, but surprise, surprise, I am going to be your HEADTEACHER!"*

It has been a pleasure getting to know you, and I love that you challenge us and are independent of mind and spirit. I have let Freman College know, that as a year group you have great compassion and humility, and sometimes you don't always trust in how good you can be. We have taught you well, your learning is strong you are absolutely ready for Freman and the next stage of your educational journey.

Please remember that we will never leave you, and you will always be a welcome visitor. We look forward to hearing of your successes over the next few years. I get a wry smile at the fact that I know at some point, from out of nowhere, you will hum a hymn from Edwinstree, or wish you were back in a COWO. You might not believe me now, but I promise it will happen!

Have a good summer and do rest up, you have made a great job of a difficult time, investing in your future, not giving up and continuing to learn. This is a life-long skill. Remember, whether you choose to take God with you now or not, many of us believe it is his/her footprints in the sand, next to yours walking with you. God teaches us that you are 'unique', you are 'wonderful', and you have been able to flourish at Edwinstree. The Church of England ask us to help you *"to live Life in all it Fullness"* please have a look at this video ,link of you doing exactly that!

<https://youtu.be/CScA3YAvHBg>

Wishing you all the best, stay safe and well, my prayers are with you!

Jo Gant
Headteacher

Norfolk Road : Buntingford : Hertfordshire : SG9 9AW

T: 01763 -271446 F: 01763-274005 E: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk W: www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

