

Dear Year 8 Student

I wanted to write to you at the end of your four years at Edwinstree. I have personally been at the school for 13 years and it's been by far the strangest year that I have experienced. In previous years I have seen some strange things; I have seen the school flooded more than once, I've seen an air ambulance arrive on the field, I have seen the caretaker wonder what on earth to do with the field being taken over by rabbits and I have seen staff and parent cars struggle to make it up the hill to the school gate - But I've never experienced the school being closed for most of our Year 8 students for four months!

Yet despite all of this, I have been truly amazed at your resilience and the incredible dedication that you have been putting into your work. I have been so proud to see that you have just knuckled down and carried on with your work at home. Nevertheless, I know that for some of you it has been particularly tough having to keep away for months from some of your family who might be isolating or shielding. I know it's also been tough for many of you sharing a computer and then logging onto "Show My Homework" on a Monday morning to be faced by such a large quantity of work ready for the coming week.

I know that you have all been missing your normal school routine, as well as your friends and your teachers. Yet I truly believe that you will all have learnt many lessons that will stay with you for the rest of your life and that without this dreadful pandemic, you may not otherwise have realised. You may have realised how important some of the things are that we often take for granted, for example the freedom to just walk outside when you want and for how long you want. You may have discovered how very important your family and friends are to you, you may have discovered how important it is to look after our fragile planet so we can pass it on in as healthy as possible to future generations.

This year group is indeed the year group that is closest to my own heart and I will truly miss you all. You all deserve an award and so we have been thinking hard on which Christian value to nominate each individual student for; you will each and every one receive a certificate to reflect this. We will have a Celebration Evening to congratulate you on your achievements and we will hold this when we are sure it is safe to have you all together with your parents or carers. Mrs Booth is working hard to create a ceiling hanging with all of your mood boards on it. Ms Pegrum has created a short video of some of your photos over the last few years, do enjoy viewing it: <https://youtu.be/CScA3YAvHBq>. I know that many of you are waiting for your hoodies to arrive. Today the company confirmed a delivery date and you will be able to collect your hoodie from the office on Thursday 23rd July or Friday 24th July between 9am-2pm. Please remember to socially distance if you have to wait. Along with your hoodie there will be your end of year report and your award certificates.

Despite being the year group that will never leave us, you will all be heading for new adventures at your new school in September. This is likely to be your last school, so I urge you to start as you mean to go on; with confidence in who you are, working hard and learning to discover your own passions and your own 'wonderful'.

Continue to discover what matters to you and be proud of the unique individual that you are.

Have a wonderful summer.

Mr Galanides

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Edwinstree Middle School

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