



21 July 2020

Dear Year 8

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you the very best for the summer. This last school year has certainly been very different and a challenging one for all of us. I would like to say how proud I am of all of you in the way you have responded and coped with everything that has happened.

Since January, your attitude and behaviour as a year group has been amazing. It was a pleasure teaching you and walking into your lessons, seeing you engaged and working hard. I have been really impressed and looking forward to seeing you all back in the classroom in September.

Over the last 4 months, you have been working from home and I understand it has been a struggle, certainly during the lockdown period. However, you have shown great perseverance and resilience during these times and have managed to keep up with and complete the home learning set by your subject teachers. This will really put you in the best position for when we come back in September, so well done.

### **Uniform reminder**

When you return to school, it is imperative that your uniform is perfect.

You must have:

- A school blazer
- A white collared shirt
- An Oxford Academy tie
- Plain black leather shoes (no trainers, boots, sandals, canvas shoes or high heels)
- Black trousers or skirts (no trousers should be tight fitting at the ankle or have rivets around pockets).

Students must not wear expensive jewellery. One ring only is permitted. Necklaces and chains must be kept to the minimum. One small plain sleeper or one set of stud earrings are permitted in the ear (1 earring in each ear). Facial or nose studs and body piercings are not allowed.

Hairstyles must be appropriate for Academy life, ie no shaved design. This includes un-natural colours and shaved areas as well as the whole head. Coloured nail polish, false nails and excessive make-up including false eyelashes are not permitted.

### **Equipment**

To prevent sharing of equipment, and enforce that staff are not issue equipment, it is really important that students bring a pencil case to school containing the following:

- Pencil case
- Two black or blue pens
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- A second coloured pen (any colour but green or red suggested)
- Scientific calculator

It would also be useful for pupils to have the following:

- Glue stick
- Pencil sharpener
- Highlighters (two or more colours)

I hope you and your families have an enjoyable and restful summer and are well prepared for the start of Year 9. It will certainly be a 'new normal' with the changes schools have to put in place. However, you have shown that you can adapt to changes and persevere which is a great skill to have.

We will communicate further details outlining how school will be adapted to conform the recent government guidance before your return in September.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Best wishes and take care,

*Mr Baptiste*

Mr Baptiste  
**Head of Year 8**