

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Year 13 Students,

Today should have been your leaving day. You would have been dressed up in t shirts with silly names on the back. You would have posed for a photo altogether in the courtyard. We would have gathered in the chapel for a final time and Rachel would have helped us reflect on our time in school. Staff would have passed tissues round as you remembered the best of times with your friends. You would have been subjected to speeches by Mrs Lowe, Mr Seddon and me. Mr Seddon's would have the funniest and Mrs Lowe would remind you to eat and drink responsibly. Then you would have all have left the school building as a student for the final time and enjoyed an afternoon and evening together of drinking soft drinks (!) and making memories that would last a life time.

So today you may be feeling a variety of emotions. You have been in schools for 14 years of your lives. You have been working towards your A levels and BTECS for two years and they were taken away from you suddenly in a most unexpected and final way. Some of you may be relieved about that but many of you will be disappointed and maybe feel a little lost. Please don't worry that you have not sat exams, that you have not finished your education the way you thought you would. We will not remember you as the students who 'did not' but as the students who 'did'.

I have so many happy memories of your time in school. I remember many of you as Year 7 and 8s. Dressing up on World Book Day. I remember seeing the dancing girls in their first Dance Show and being so impressed by their confidence and talent. I remember Duke of Edinburgh trips, teaching some of you to play Pooh Sticks and joining some of you in Silverdale where you tried to cook food on a small burner. I was so proud of you standing up for what you believe in and students who went to London to campaign for that. I remember those who joined in Year 12 and fitted in so well that one young man then became Head Boy. Even at our saddest moment when we lost Miss Brindle her students became people who were positive and used her inspiration to help others who were less fortunate. Don't let people tell you that you are the 'Did nots', you are definitely a Year 13 that 'did'.

I hope that you also have happy memories of being a part of the Our Lady's family. Many may feel they are not ready to move on, but you are. We believe in you and know that you have learned what we have tried to teach you, developed your own set of beliefs and values and are set to go out there and make the world a better place.

I want to say thank you for all you did for our school community. It would not have been the same without each one of you. This may be your official leaving day but you will always be a part of the Our Lady's family and you will always be welcome to visit. We want you to stay in touch because we carry on caring for you and remembering you long after you leave the school.

If today has been tinged with a little sadness, don't dwell on it. Think of all the happy times and we promise that at some point in the future we will gather and we will do those things you feel you are missing out on today. It's probably best it wasn't today anyway, Mr Seddon's lockdown haircut would not look good wet through by rain!

There is a wonderful Dr Seuss book called 'Oh, The Places You'll Go', I recommend you read it. It is not really a child's book and it has great lessons about life. It finishes with this quote and if it was good enough for Dr Seuss to finish on it's good enough for me.

"Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way!"

I wish you all the happiness in the world.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Seddon

Headteacher