

WEEK 32 - Friday 28 May 2021

This will be my final blog as Head of Year 11 and it seems surreal. The ups and downs faced by our students in Year 11 have been like no other and they have coped incredibly well. Emotions overflowed last Friday when the shirt signing began and they had the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you.

Flowers and gifts were received by staff and lots of 'thank yous'. I spent the weekend reading a book that had been presented to Miss Staveley and I with lots of thank you comments inside. I was also taken by surprise when some of our students asked to shake my hand and say thank you for everything and goodbye.

They left the site happy and a little emotional but with shouts of 'see you at Prom Miss'.

Miss Staveley and I will now put our efforts into Prom preparations and planning for our next role as Head of Year 8. We will also see them again to celebrate their results in August, which will again be another emotional day. Life as a teacher is never dull.

I hope you feel that the Year 11 team of tutors, Miss Staveley and I have done our best to support our young people as they go out into the wider world.

It has been a pleasure to be Head of Year 11 made a little easier with the support of Miss Staveley, but we would be fibbing if we said we are not looking forward to half term and a little sunshine to recharge our batteries.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 11

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 30 - Friday 14 May 2021

As I write this, I am contemplating my role as Head of Year 11 and the different aspects of a week in school. This year has brought many different things my way: teacher, pastoral support, shop organiser, radio guest, events organiser - it has certainly been a role with plenty of variety but one that is enjoyable and extremely fulfilling.

As my time as Head of Year 11 reaches the end, I can report that Year 11 students are coping with such maturity that I have to remind myself that in two weeks time they will be leaving us after spending five years in our school.

At this moment in time they are preparing for their next set of assessments, revising and absorbing information and advice from their teachers. Some of them are still having to cope with self isolation, although this seems to be happening less and less thankfully, while others are contending with illness and broken bones. Nevertheless, they continue to give it their all.

Most of the students are beginning to think of their next steps after Year 11. Excitement and trepidation is beginning to show as they go for college and apprenticeship interviews, nerves kick in and they look for reassurance which often only takes a few words in the form of "you'll be great, be positive, smile and be yourself". One of the best parts for me is when they come into school the next day with a big smile to let us know they've been accepted into sixth form, college or received a place on an apprenticeship. That makes it all worthwhile.

Then there is the Prom. Our usually well organised and spacious office now looks like the wardrobe from Narnia. We are packed with dresses and suits and I have been blown away by the generosity of our friends and local community. To ensure everyone can go to Prom in an amazing outfit is fantastic and I too am excited about this future celebration.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 11

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 28 - Friday 30 April 2021

Although it is a bit chillier than I would have liked, it has certainly been a busy and productive week in Year 11.

The students are receiving feedback on the assessments that they sat last week and are looking at ways to improve in their next paper. It's a difficult time for them but they are taking it in their stride and behaving in a very mature way. It's a pleasure to see them at break and lunchtime, sat chatting in their little groups.

It is now dawning on them that, in four weeks time, they will be saying 'goodbye' to Year 11 and so there is an air of excitement and trepidation. I always find it strange and a little funny that, in Year 10, students will tell you that they cannot wait to leave school and then, once they're in Year 11, it is 'Oh Miss, I don't want to leave now'. I think I may have said that myself!

However, excitement is building as the plans for our Prom are being put into place. Hesse High Prom shop has received lots of donations. I expected half a dozen dresses and maybe two or three suits, not over 100 donations. It has been a little overwhelming but heartwarming to see how people have come forward to support our plan.

This week saw students trying on outfits in the dressing room that has been put together by Mrs Edwards and Miss Lawes. One student walked through the door and said, 'Wow it's like a real shop dressing room'.

The moment of the week though was when two male students came to try on a three-piece suit. What a transformation, with one of them saying, "This suit was made for me. Can I buy it?"

I feel we are achieving what we set out to do, some students may still choose not to come to Prom for reasons known to them but I now know that students don't come because they don't have anything to wear. And we now have the resources to ensure that this ethos continues in future years, helping many many more students.

A huge thanks to all of you that are helping us to achieve this. Prom is one night they always remember and so you have made a real difference to a young person's life.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 11

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 26 - Friday 16 April 2021

It has been a great week back after the Easter break.

The students returned ready to learn and with a hint of excitement that they have a Prom date to look forward to. The students will receive lots of information over the coming days regarding dates and assessments but the important thing is that they try their best and remember to take some time out to relax and recharge their batteries.

Miss Staveley and I are constantly telling them we are here to support them and they know where to find us, if they need us. The bigger picture is to keep going, the end is near.

Prom has raised some excitement, however we are aware this can be a big expense, as students often have their eye on something they like without thinking of the cost. We are committed to ensure that the Prom is an event that every child, and family, can participate in regardless of financial means. The important thing, at the end of a difficult year for the students, is that they can ALL come together to celebrate their time at Hesse High.

To that end, we have launched the 'Hesse High Prom Hire Shop'. We have been very lucky to receive donations of new and vintage prom attire (for girls and boys) that we intend to loan to students for the small charge of just £10 (to cover dry cleaning on the return of the item). The students have been exceptional in their praise for the idea and fully appreciate the financial strain some families may face at this time.

This is a completely confidential service that the students have been told they can access to view items with support from Miss Staveley and I. They only have to ask or email to see what is available to them or if they need help in any way.

We are looking forward to hosting the first ever Prom to be held at Hesse High School and will do everything we can to make it a night to remember.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 11

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 11

WEEK 24 - Friday 19 March 2021

What a great start to Year 11 returning to school. We were excited to see them and they turned up looking smart and ready to work. They were then surprised with a breakfast bbq supplied by Goodfellows, our local butcher in Hessle. Drinks and sweet treats followed and an opportunity to speak to friends and tutors who they have not seen for a long time. The students were in good spirits and, after a catchup, they returned to tutor groups to complete a destination form and a chat about their next move. This form will enable us to help anyone who hasn't yet made plans for September. Miss Lawes, our Careers Leader, is doing an amazing job catching up with students and helping them to think about their 6th form destination and future careers.

Then unfortunately some of our Year 11 students had to self isolate soon after returning. I know just how difficult this is as I myself have also had to self isolate (due to a contact outside of school) but it is a reminder to us all that this virus has not gone away and we need to be vigilant. Luckily we have the amazing Miss Staveley in school to support our Year 11s as well as great tutors who see our young people every morning and are guiding them through the next few weeks

I hope that all students have read Mr Groak's letters and watched his assemblies which provide lots of information around exams. Their final few weeks in school will be very important and 100% attendance and 100% commitment should be the aim for all students.

I will be back at work on Monday, having really missed my colleagues and students. Self isolation can be a lonely place so if your young person needs any support please contact myself or Miss Staveley and we will do our best to help.

Regards and good health

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 11

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 11