

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this termly newsletter finds you well. Year 9 have had another hugely successful term. Currently, Year 9 Olney have collectively 26,874 achievements points (since September), awarded for their achievements and efforts both inside and outside the classroom. This shows the consistent commitment many of our students have to being successful in school. This was reflected by the many fantastic conversations we experienced during our parents' evening appointments.

A special mention goes to 9HVG who are currently in the lead for achieving the most points of all form groups with a total of 7,549- well done 9HVG!

During this half term, Year 9 students have been working hard in PSHE developing their knowledge and understanding of 'Careers'. Whilst doing lesson dips, I was able to engage with the students and experience some of the wonderful discussions they were having during these lessons. They have all found PSHE this term engaging and interesting, however, most importantly, the relevance of this PSHE topic has allowed their options process to run smoothly and ensure that they receive enough information and motivation to support their decisions for their next step into Key Stage 4.

Our Year 9 Student Council members have been meeting regularly to plan and implement their first major project. This project is based around the implementation of a 'Key Stage priority queue' system for the POD/Outdoor food vendor. (We already have a priority system in place for the canteen so it will work alongside this current system). The aim of their project is to; reduce the canteen queue for food and drinks at lunch time, ensure students of both Key Stages are able to access *either* the POD or the canteen as a priority each day, ensure that students of both Key Stages have access to warm and cold food options within the first 15 minute of lunch every day. They have all worked exceptionally hard to implement this change. The process has involved the council members; writing a letter to the canteen staff, writing a letter to Senior Leadership Team, creating information posters, speaking in assemblies for all year groups and visiting all tutor groups (of all years) to collect student votes. Overall, the students were 84% in favour of this change and therefore, I am pleased to announce that this project will become live next term on our first day back in the Summer Term.

Next term we will be also holding our annual 'Reward Trip'. The top 25% of students across both campuses (*combined*) for Year 9 will be invited to a fun-filled day out. The allocation for this trip will be based on ClassCharts positive to negative ratio. I hope that this provides a continued motivational push to keep working hard, being kind and succeeding together!! *More information about this trip will be released to all students in the early part of the Summer Term.*

Finally, I would like to thank you for all of your feedback from the Year 9 reports and parents evening. All kind words and positive comments were so greatly appreciated. Any issues/concerns have been noted and requests for further information will be actioned (via communication from Form Tutors or relevant subject teacher) in the first part of the Summer Term.

Please continue to use your child's Form Tutor in the first instance for any questions or queries.

I hope that all students have an enjoyable Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming Year 9 back to the Olney campus in the Summer Term for their final term as Key Stage 3 students.

Kind regards,



Jessica Greaves
Head of Year 9, Olney Campus