

## **Year 9 Message-We're all in it Together**

This is my last message for this academic year.

I was in school on June 29<sup>th</sup> for a meeting with other Year Leaders and with Subject Leaders and the Head Teacher and Assistant Heads. I wrote down notes from the meeting, they included "working collaboratively" and "we're all in this together" and I thought of you.

Teachers, especially in departments, often work collaboratively/together, but during lockdown this has been more important than ever. Collaboration means the action of working with someone to produce something. The geography department divided tasks between us so, for instance, I prepared geography home learning materials for Year 9 and then shared them with the rest of the department. Other teachers devised materials for other year groups and shared them with me. This made all our lives and workload a lot easier. You as pupils work collaboratively, you support one another through friendship, and sometimes help each other to understand school work. Teams has been a steep learning curve for all of us. Have you been able to help another student with this, or has someone helped you? We all achieve more when we work collaboratively.

We are all "in this" together. The pandemic is affecting the whole world. In a previous message I wrote about social justice. We have all learned how important so many people are to us, from doctors and nurses, to supermarket workers, post men/women and delivery drivers to our family and friends. Many of you will have really missed seeing your friends whilst you could not come to school. Have you missed teachers too? Many of you will have found school work at home difficult without teachers.

Teachers and students work collaboratively, we work together for you to gain the GCSEs, skills and knowledge you need for the rest of your lives.

Remember every Year 9 in the country is in the same boat as you, as far as education is concerned, so there is nothing to worry about.

I wrote a while ago about how I had watched YouTube videos of one of my favourite pop bands from the early 1970s, The Sweet. They had been in the news as a member of the group had died recently. I have to confess that I've become a bit obsessed with watching old videos of them! I wonder if in years to come, when I hear one of their songs, if it will make me think of lockdown 2020 as well as the 1970s? The below is a playlist of Sweet videos for you to enjoy during the summer holidays, and wonder at the fashion of flared trousers and stacked heels!!

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL77lvHfnqQEdAX95vExBXgfF57wSLTrpd](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL77lvHfnqQEdAX95vExBXgfF57wSLTrpd)

Thinking of you and looking forward to seeing many of you in school for your contact session with your tutor.

Enjoy your summer holiday. Term ends on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of July, so that is your last day of home learning for Year 9.

Miss Owen