

15 June 2023

Dear Year 11,

As I reflect back on the few years, I do so with a smile on my face. The time has flown by, as it always does.

No-one could have predicted that during your secondary education you would have had to deal with lockdowns and home learning or that you would have missed a significant amount of your time at school and the opportunity to socialise with your friends and peer groups. What an eventful journey it has been!

What an absolute honour to have the opportunity to see your resilience, positive attitudes and to be able to be part of your experiences as you navigated your way through Year 11. During your time with us you adapted your learning with confidence and stayed determined to succeed.

All of the knowledge and skills that you have developed and the experiences that you have had have shaped you, to make you the amazing individuals you are. The hard work and dedication you have shown, the stepping up ready to take your exams have made us all very proud. In the end, life isn't about numbers, it's about stories. It's about the stories we tell each other to strengthen our memories and our sense of community. All of the stuff you have learnt throughout your time at Outwood Academy Shafton has shaped the wonderful adults you have become. We don't just teach you the curriculum just to get you the grades – we teach you that stuff because you have a human right to know it and because it's your heritage and your future and because we want you to be the best you can be.

We will miss you, I will miss you. You have been a brilliant year group. All of the little things that you do to support each other makes Shafton the place that it is.

Now you have time to focus at home on your next steps, careers and Post 16. Soon you will all be embarking on the next stage of your lives with an education behind you that will hopefully allow you to achieve whatever you want to do. Aim high, dream big and be proud always!

This really is your time, you are change-makers, embrace life and all it has to offer.



Alison McQueen
Principal