



25 June 2014

RE: END OF YEAR 12

Dear Year 12 Parents

As I write this letter, we are in the last week of the school year, and the Year 12 students are still busily engaged in a number of different academic pursuits. They are completing coursework tasks, preparing and delivering Theory of Knowledge presentations and making sure that they have a plan for researching and writing their extended essays over the holiday. They will remain busy right up to the last day of term, and this is a pattern that will certainly continue into Year 13 next term.

With that in mind, as well as taking some well-deserved rest over the holiday, it is vitally important that the students make good use of the summer break to complete various academic tasks which will allow them to make a strong start to the demanding second year of the IB Diploma course.

Each subject has set specific holiday tasks for Year 12. Teachers have communicated these to students, but full details can also be found on the Y12 Holiday homework page on Moodle. If your son or daughter has difficulty accessing this, please ask them to let me know by email and I will forward the information to them.

In addition to this, the bulk of the work on the extended essay, researching and writing a first draft, needs to be done over the break. The first draft of the essay needs to be submitted shortly after the start of the new term and, once we are back at school, there will not be time to catch up after that without a serious impact on other academic work.

Over the last few days, I have been hearing so many stories and reflections about the CAS trip to Cambodia. The students have clearly seen and experienced many remarkable things which have had a profound impact on them. They have also had a chance to understand and make a difference to the lives of people living in some very poor communities. It is good to be able to report that the students made the most of this opportunity, working hard and immersing themselves fully in each new task and challenge.

Before signing off for the year, I'd like to extend my thanks to the rest of the IB team - Ling Coong, who organised and led that amazing Cambodian trip; to Roohi Iqbal who has already embarked on the process of helping your sons and daughters to secure the best possible university places; and, especially, to Jon Wasey our IB co-ordinator. You may be aware that Jon has decided to step down from this role at the end of this year and return to full time teaching in the science department. We have all benefited from his energetic and determined approach to supporting and challenging all the IB students to do the best they can, and I will miss working with him. It is typical of Jon that he has been securing the future success of the IB Academy right up to his last day in the job,

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working on the Pre-IB course and arranging ongoing training for our IB teachers. Thomas Housham, a member of our Maths department who will be well known to many of you, will be taking on the IB Coordinator's role next year.

It has been a very busy and productive school year. The students have worked hard, and by the time you read this we will have celebrated their academic successes at our annual Prizegiving. They are now well placed to make a good start on Year 13. I wish you and your families a very happy summer break, wherever your travels may take you, and look forward to seeing you again in August.

With all best wishes

Jane White  
Head of the IB Academy