



## HELLO YEAR 6, SOON TO BE YEAR 7!

I hope you and those around you are all keeping well.

My name is Mr Emery and I'm going to be your Progress Leader for your first two years at Higham Lane School.

I'm going to be writing to you weekly between now and the end of term to keep you updated with how things are going at school and share information with you.

Preparations are in full swing to welcome you into school in September. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to speak with your new form tutor over the past few days. We had a Zoom meeting to discuss this earlier in the week and the tutors were all really excited at the prospect of finding out a bit about you. Despite not all of the staff being in school full-time at the minute, the school is still really busy. There is still lots to do to finish off this school year and all the preparations to ensure everything is in place for next term. There are lots of teachers having a good clear out of their classrooms, so they are looking pristine for the start of next term. As result of the Maths Department clear out, I was given a box of what was believed to be Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) resources, as I coordinate the award within school, as the items at the top of the box were food packs and a DofE certificate. I was a bit excited at the opportunity to see if there was anything I could use for our current students, but was disappointed to find there was actually very little for DofE. All of the food had expiry dates of 2003 and I couldn't even display the certificate as it expired in 2006 and was for Alderman Smith School! The rest of the box contained Maths resources which I promptly returned to where they originated and had to spend the rest of the day not eating the bag of sweets that had been foil packed. It looked OK despite having the date 03/04/03 on the packet. If you don't receive a message from me next week, you will know I've eaten the sweets!

With there being fewer staff in school when I've been out and about, like when I was dropping an unwanted box back to Maths, I've had the chance to catch up with staff that I don't normally get to see very often, or not see at all in some cases. Having this opportunity to speak to different staff has reinforced to me what a great school this is to work in, as they have all been so happy to talk and find out what I've been up to. I know when you start, they will be just as welcoming towards you and keen to get to know you as well as seeing what you're capable of in their lessons.

Do any of you watch the news? I'm sure there are lots of other shows that are more exciting to watch but it's worth watching a few times a week to see what is going on locally, nationally and internationally. During one bulletin this week, I was pleased to hear the government plans to support the theatres due to them still being unable to reopen. This item got me thinking about all the amazing school shows that I've seen since joining Higham Lane and how lucky I have been to be invited to some of your school's end of year productions. It is something I know I'm going to miss this year and I'm sure this is something you would have really looked forward to, despite all the hard work that must go into them. What I can assure you of is, that when the opportunity allows, there is a group of staff and students already at the school that will be keen to put on a show and will give you a warm welcome if you join the cast or crew.

It's strange to think the next message I send will be the last one as the school holidays will be starting. I still can't believe we are well into July; where has the time gone? It seems to have flown by. Enjoy the weekend, and keep being sensible and following the advice that has been given.

Stay safe.  
Mr Emery

