

Dear Parents and Carers,

I may have shared with you in the past that during whole school assembly on a Monday morning I set a theme for the week. The idea being that pupils can focus on that theme and use it during the week to motivate themselves and develop an understanding of key traits that can support their progress.

This week the theme was '*Determination*'. I chose this based on my experiences last week with our Yr13 leavers who spent the week accessing outdoor adventure activities at The Conway Centre on Anglesey. The week of activities not only presented students with physical challenges but also challenged their social, communication, mental and team building skills. A week of facing challenges that moves you close to the boundary of your comfort zone and in some cases beyond it requires determination and trust. Students were so supportive of each other, watching out for each other throughout the week. I think it is the first time staff have not had to chase pupils to get up in the morning, to organise their clothing for the day or remind them that they needed to be in their rooms by 9:30pm. The strongest group of students we have taken. Thank you to Mr Kenny and Anthea Jackson for pulling this opportunity together and to The Chairman's Trust whose sponsorship significantly reduced the cost of the week.

This week saw the start of the GCSE exam season for the small group of pupils who are sitting English Language, Mathematics and Biology exams. School offers a range of exam opportunities based on progress in Key Stage 3. The range of routes pupils follow whilst at Greenbank are described within '*Curriculum Flight Paths*'. This is a new development in school that aims to indicate to parents and carers the 'likely' destination of their child as they progress through school and beyond. Further detail is available on the school website, school displays and will be discussed with you during your child's annual review.

Next Friday, school will close for the half term break - We are going to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a picnic. Pupils can wear 'red, white and blue' on this day. Thank you to Jane Goodall for organising this with Zara and her team in the kitchen. Pupils will receive a 'Platinum Packet of Seeds' to take home and plant as part of our celebrations.

School will close for the half term break on **Friday 27th May** and re-open for pupils on **Tuesday 7th June**.

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Headteacher



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann