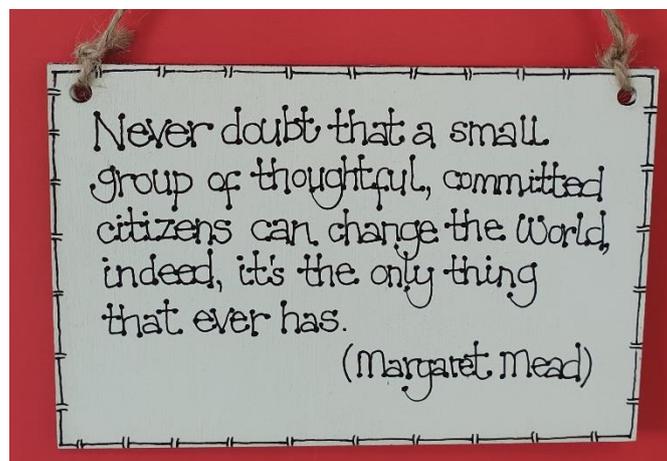


Dear Parents / Carers,

This is unquestionably the strangest end of term that I have ever encountered in my 21 years as a teacher / leader. However, as an eternal optimist, I will always look to take the positives out of any situation, no matter how challenging it seems at the time.

Without a doubt, the biggest positive to come out of the Covid-19 situation, for me, is the huge sense of community I have felt from staff, governors and parents alike. Having the whole community pull together for the benefit of our children has been amazing. There may have been decisions that were taken that caused disruption and inconveniences, but I have felt supported by everyone all the way through the process. For this, I will be forever grateful and it cements the pride I feel leading such an amazing school in our community.

I have a favourite quote that inspires me each day. It is from a lady named Margaret Mead and it is now hanging proudly on my notice board thanks to a very thoughtful gift I received.



Now I don't proclaim to have changed the world, by any stretch of the imagination, but what we have achieved as a Highwood community during this pandemic needs to be the foundation for our future. The sense of community and working together will help us in our journey of improvement, so that we get the external recognition to match what we all feel about our school.

In preparation for September (our full planning information will be with you early next week) the teachers have been working extremely hard behind the scenes to make tweaks to the curriculum. These are all prepared and saved on the website in the Curriculum Information section of each Year Group page.

The image displays a collection of educational materials. At the top left is a central mind map with a yellow core labeled 'Year 8 Algebra: Does change always lead to progress?'. It branches into several subjects: Science (with sub-points like 'All and Order' and 'Diversity'), History (with 'Empire'), Literacy (with 'Writing to entertain, inform and persuade'), Maths (with 'Probability'), and Art (with 'Creative'). To the right is a large worksheet titled 'Year 8 Algebra: Does change always lead to progress?' containing dense text and tables. Below this is another worksheet titled 'Does Change Always Lead To Progress?' which includes a timeline from 1750 to 2020, an illustration of human evolution, and sections on 'The Industrial Revolution', 'The Renaissance', and 'The Effects on the Wider World'.

We have also had all our curriculum leaders analyse which are the key parts of the Summer Term curriculum that were missed, and where best to include them during next academic year. This will be called our 'Curriculum Adjustments', and be available on our website for parents to see our approach. We will offer a full curriculum to all children and make sure that classes can access as many of the enrichment tasks as are

safe to do so.

All that I am left to do is to wish you an enjoyable summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey

Headteacher