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Dear families,

There is always something special about the beginning of a new academic year: new uniforms, new classrooms, new friendships, new teachers and, most importantly, a renewed sense of possibility. Walking around the College the past two days, I have been struck by the energy, optimism and sense of purpose across our school.

I have been particularly proud of the way our new Year 7 students have begun their Bodmin College journey. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone and they have approached it brilliantly. Equally, it has been wonderful to welcome back our older students and see them quickly settle into the routines and expectations that help make our school a calm, purposeful and positive place to learn.

We begin this year with much to celebrate.

Over the summer, our Year 11 students achieved **record-breaking GCSE results – the best in Bodmin College's history**. Behind those results are thousands of hours of hard work, determination and resilience from our students, alongside the extraordinary commitment of our staff and the support of families. I could not be prouder of what they achieved.

Those results matter not simply because they are numbers on a page, but because of what they represent: **doors opened, choices created and young people able to take their next steps with confidence**. They bring our mission- enabling 100% of our learners to live lives of choice and boundless opportunities- to life.

They also give us tremendous confidence about what is possible for the year ahead. We are ambitious for Bodmin College and, most importantly, ambitious for every young person who walks through our doors. Our values of **Ambition, Integrity and Respect- the AIR we breathe** - will continue to shape how we learn, how we behave and how we treat one another.

Remembering Donna

Of course, this new beginning comes alongside a profound sense of loss for our community following the death of our much-loved colleague, **Donna Pavey**, during the summer. Donna gave almost 30 years to Bodmin College and her contribution reached generations of students, families and colleagues.

This week, as we have come back together, we have taken time to remember Donna and to reflect on the enormous contribution she made to our College. There is something important, I think, about holding both things at once: the excitement and optimism of a new beginning, while

remembering with gratitude somebody who helped shape the community, we are so proud to belong to.

Our values are not simply words that we display around our school. They are most visible in moments such as these- in the respect we show, the integrity with which we conduct ourselves and the care we demonstrate for others.

I would also like to remind families about the arrangements for **Friday, 11th September**, when Donna's funeral will take place. As previously communicated, students will learn remotely that day, enabling colleagues who wish to attend Donna's funeral to pay their respects. **In-school provision remains available for families who require it**, including particularly for younger students, students attending Greenfield and those who cannot be appropriately supervised at home. You can let us know that you would like this via this form: [Friday, 11th September – Fill in form](#)

As part of Donna's final journey, she will pass Bodmin College between 12.20-12.40pm on the way to the crematorium. We know that some students may wish to be at the front of the College to pay their respects. Because this may be an emotional moment, we ask that any student choosing to do so is **accompanied by an appropriate adult**.

Our **Book of Condolence also remains open until Monday, 14th September**, after which it will be shared with Donna's family. The messages already contributed are a powerful reflection of the impact she had across our community. [Remembering Donna Together – Fill in form](#)

Looking ahead

And so, as this first week draws to a close, I feel enormously optimistic about the year ahead.

There is a real energy around Bodmin College. We have started from a position of strength; our students have returned ready to learn and our staff are united in their ambition for what we can achieve together.

There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way- there always are- but the achievements of last year's Year 11 remind us just what is possible when learners, staff and families work together with high expectations and a shared belief in what our young people can achieve.

New beginnings give us the opportunity to look forward with ambition, while remembering with gratitude those who have helped us get here.

Thank you for everything you have done to support such a positive start to the year. I am incredibly excited about what lies ahead for our students and our College.

We will shortly move to a fortnightly newsletter for our families, beginning on the 18th September where we will bring highlights across the school from the previous two weeks and share forthcoming events.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Claire White

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Headteacher