

Our Ref: S6  
Your Ref: JM  
Contact: JM  
Tel: 01236 794890  
E-mail: enquiries@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk  
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Education and Families  
Jonny Mitchell  
Head Teacher  
Chryston High School  
Lindsaybeg Road  
Chryston  
G69 9DL  
[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Farewell & Good Luck S6

Dear S6,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to you at this stage of the session knowing that you have reached the very final stage of your school journey. No one welcomes the circumstances in which have been forced upon us by the national school closures. We were all very much looking forward to your 'last day' and all of the celebrations it would undoubtedly have brought with it, including an opportunity to distribute your yearbooks and your 'hoodies'. Needless to say, we were looking forward to your final school Prom even more and it is with huge disappointment that we have had to cancel that. With this in mind, I am pleased to say that we are now in a position to be able to refund what you have paid including your deposit. We are aiming to arrange refunds at the earliest opportunity and will most likely send out a cheque to your parent/carer who is the main contact on Seemis (the school's management information system). If you have any questions/queries about your refund, please contact Mrs Miller as soon as possible.

[jac.miller@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:jac.miller@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk)

This, however, is not goodbye from us at Chryston High School but rather a fond 'farewell'. Mrs Miller, Mr.Kane and I are already in discussion about the most appropriate way we can all get together one more time (as soon as it is reasonably possible) to celebrate your time and success at Chryston High School and our plans will be guided by government updates. You have my word that we will be in touch with you all again as soon as we can to provide more information – we very much look forward to seeing you all again at the earliest opportunity and as soon as it is safe to do so.

Whilst we are all very proud thinking about the progress you have made in our school and we are excited about what you all have have to look forward to, we also feel a great sense of sadness to say farewell. It is important to remember that although you are leaving Chryston High School, Chryston High School should never leave you – our school has been a significant part of your life during important formative years and you will all have your own stories and experiences to reflect upon, not to mention the people you have met and quite often the best friends you have made along the way who will support you for the rest of your lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your parents/carers for their continued, ongoing support. Your parents/carers responsibility has and will continue to be to support and encourage you – you are their pride and joy, and we all realise the importance of education and school in shaping the values of young people during these formative years. I am also extremely grateful to the staff in the school for doing what I think has been an excellent job for you over the years.

I always feel that you can judge how good a school really is by the conduct and attitudes of senior pupils, particularly S6. I think that you should feel justifiably proud of the fact that this is absolutely the case in Chryston High School – thank you.



As you began your S6 in June 2019 you were set the challenge as a year group to come together in order to leave a lasting legacy on our school community. Your energy, good humour, and dedication to a number of causes has allowed you to do exactly that. There are far too many achievements to mention them all, however, for me some of the stand out moments include:

- Café' Virseco workforce – you ran a business, based in the school that has been successful and has made profit, not to mention, you made great coffee and made many people in our school community (and visitors) feel welcome and relaxed.
- Mental Health Ambassadors – this initiative has continued to grow in strength and impact on the whole school community.
- Mentors in Violence Prevention – you were the first mentors in VP trained at CHS. You embraced the training and led the initiative across the school, building a legacy that will be taken up by many others
- Sports Leaders and Inter-House – we have been overwhelmed by the feedback from across our community and the hard work, dedication and maturity that you have shown
- Outstanding individual talents – including the legacy you have left by the grand opening of our Auchengeich Memorial Hall. The artwork and paintings will be in pride of place for many years to come

Leaving school is a very significant turning point in your young lives and it can indeed be an emotional and strange time. Your life for the last 13 years has been punctuated by the wearing of a school uniform and the ringing of a bell; that time has now come to an end. Your official leaving date was Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and although we wish each and every one of you every success – we are confident that we will all meet again soon to mark the occasion respectively.

We understand how anxious you must be about the cancellation of the exam diet this year. Firstly, try your best to stay positive and not panic. We will be doing everything we possibly can to ensure that no young person is disadvantaged in any way. All of the required information can be accessed from the SQA website or by using the link from our very own school website. You know where we are if you need any assistance and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Perriss, your PT PS and also Mr. Kane, your Year Head. They have done a terrific job in supporting you thus far and will continue to do so as/when required.

We wish you all the very best for your future endeavours; we hope that you will continue to conduct yourselves with integrity, compassion, ambition, respect and equity in all of your future adventures.

Thank you & good luck – you will always be a part of our school community.

***Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. (Henry David Thoreau – American Writer)***

Further, I have included below what I feel is a relevant poem (Desiderata), that may provide guidance for your future.

Yours faithfully



Jonny Mitchell  
Head Teacher

# Desiderata

**GO PLACIDLY** amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

By Max Ehrmann © 1927