



# Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, Year 7 students completed a number of assessments (Cognitive Ability Tests, Progress in English, Progress in Maths and Progress in Science) when they joined us during the first half term. Having looked at the data that has been generated, along with the performance they have demonstrated in lessons, we have made a number of changes to the groups for Maths and Science. All other subject groupings will remain the same for this half term. We will review the arrangements again, after the assessments in December, in order to ensure that students are in the right grouping, to enable them the best possible environment in which to flourish and make outstanding progress.

In order to keep you as fully informed as possible around the rationale for this, Mr Pinches (Director of Maths) and Mr Deva (Director of Science) have provided the following information for you.

We have been so impressed with how the Year 7 students have settled into life at Team Moorside, openly demonstrating our core values of consideration, aspiration, resilience and equality. I know that teaching staff are looking forward to discussing their progress with you on the 16<sup>th</sup> November at the online Parents' Evening (further information around this evening will be distributed this week).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Miss C Smalley  
Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education

---

## Maths

*'We have made the decision to set by current ability in year 7 maths. There is no valuable evidence to support the idea of mixed ability in the maths classroom and counter evidence to support setting by ability. With setting students, we are more able to target certain groups of students and can allocate specialist teachers who have strengths in teaching these groups. Our maths curriculum is an ambitious one for all, all students will follow the same scheme of learning and will be exposed to the highest level of challenge. All students will also follow the same assessments, this will allow us to closely monitor progress and make changes to these sets accordingly. By setting it allows us to support, stretch and challenge appropriately to each student whilst always teaching to the top.'*

## Science

*"In Science, we have worked with research from the EEF foundation to come to a setting model which is based upon mixed ability sets. Research suggests that ability-based setting in Science has a small negative impact on low attaining students and incorrect ability setting can be caused by social biases.*

*Students have been put into groups using baseline testing data with the intention that each group has a true ability spread. This overcomes the small negative impact on low attainers caused by ability setting and ensures that no child is misallocated in a group due to their background.*

*Each year 7 Science teacher will teach to the top and ensure that there are scaffolds and help structures in place to allow access to the content for all. This results in all students, including the lowest attaining pupils, having the opportunity to engage with exciting, complicated ideas and being able to excel in Science.*

---

Head Teacher: Mr C Davis • 57 Deans Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 0AP • Telephone: 0161 921 1045 • [www.moorsidehigh.com](http://www.moorsidehigh.com)

