



Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as your child's new Head of Year. Having previously worked as pastoral support for our outgoing Year 11 cohort, I have had the privilege of supporting students through some of the most important and challenging moments of their school journey. That experience has deepened my commitment to nurturing young people both academically and personally.

As I step into this new role, I bring with me a strong understanding of the pastoral care needed to help students thrive. My aim is to create a safe, inclusive, and aspirational environment where every student feels supported, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. I look forward to working closely with you and your child throughout the year. Whether it is celebrating achievements, navigating challenges, or simply being a consistent source of support, I am here to help make this year a successful and memorable one.

At Moorside we have high expectations of all students, and I expect the best from every one of them within my care, including high expectations on uniform and appearance, behaviour and punctuality to school and lessons. If you are unsure of any of our standards, you can access information regarding school uniforms, behaviour standards, term dates and much more on the school website www.moorsidehigh.co.uk.

Like any year, attendance and punctuality will be one of my main focuses. It goes without saying that students need to be in school for them to make excellent progress. Sadly, for every 5% of absence, on average, a child drops 1 GCSE grade per subject. At Moorside High School, we strive for every student to have attendance above 97%. Whilst we understand that illness is sometimes unavoidable, we urge parents to consider carefully whether their child can be sent into school and wherever possible schedule medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Often, differing from the advice from primary schools, we are more than happy to have students in school if they are feeling slightly 'under the weather' and we can support them in a nurturing environment if necessary. Sending them to school means they don't miss out on crucial lessons and do not fall behind their peers. If a student's attendance drops to 90% (termed persistent absence), they will have missed approximately 95 hours of lessons by the end of the year, I am sure you will agree this is a significant amount of learning to miss and would severely harm your child's chances of success in their GCSE examinations.

I look forward to working with you to make this an enjoyable and successful year for your child, as always if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards

Mrs R Gandy
Head of Year 8



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