



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we are moving into a new academic year, I am extremely pleased to remain as your child's Head of Year and be there to support them throughout their first year of their GCSE courses. My aim is to continue building on the successes my year group have achieved in Year 8 and Year 9 and watch them continue to grow and develop during Year 10. Last year, I was really impressed with how the students conducted themselves, showing positive attitudes to learning and a desire and determination to be the best they can be. The year ahead is an extremely important one as they start their two-year GCSE courses. GCSE exams and Year 11 may seem a very long way off, but believe me when I say, it will be upon us in the blink of an eye and therefore needs to be at the forefront of our minds. What the students learn in Year 10, they will be examined on at the end of Year 11.

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. 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.

Whilst academic achievement is of utmost importance, I see my role as being more than that, it is for that reason that I place great value on ensuring our young people grow into socially responsible and well-rounded young adults. I will help them to become more resilient and support them through challenges that they may face both in and out of the classroom. In the year ahead students will have the opportunity to sign up for The Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a great opportunity and helps students develop many skills such as independence, confidence, managing feelings, resilience, determination, relationships and leadership. This also is a welcome addition, to their college/apprenticeship applications, which students will start creating within school before Christmas.

As you know, I am keen to continue developing the students in my year group and I want to invest as much time as possible in them, anything that I do will be for the good of the year group and the individual students. I will work hard to make sure that the students have everything they need to be successful in their final years at Moorside High School. As a school, we have high expectations of all students, and we expect the best from each one of them within our care. I will strive to instill our values of consideration, equality and aspiration, in order to prepare them to navigate the complexities of life beyond school. I firmly believe in displaying care and respect to all and I see no reason for people to be treated less than equal, and I will actively encourage empathy and kindness to others. As a year group, I want us to support one another and celebrate one another's successes in their various forms.

September is a new year, and regardless of what happened in Year 9, it is an opportunity to come back refreshed and ready to be successful. I would like to take this opportunity to wish your child a most successful and enjoyable Year 10, together I know we can conquer all the challenges that lie ahead.

Kind regards

Mr J Halsall

Head of Year 10

