

11th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin a new academic year, I am delighted to welcome you and your child to Team Moorside as they begin their secondary school journey. Starting Year 7 is an exciting and important milestone, and I am looking forward to getting to know the young people in the year group and supporting them as they settle into life at Moorside High School.

Transition from primary to secondary school can bring a mixture of excitement, anticipation and, for some young people, a few worries too. Our priority is to ensure that every student feels safe, valued and supported, develops a strong sense of belonging and has the confidence to thrive both academically and personally.

For students to make excellent progress, they need to be in school regularly and ready to learn. Every lesson provides an opportunity to learn something new, develop a skill, build relationships and take another step forward. At Moorside High School, we have high expectations for attendance and strive for every student to achieve **96% or above**. We understand that illness is sometimes unavoidable and that there will be occasions when absence is necessary. However, wherever possible, we would ask that routine medical and dental appointments are arranged outside of school hours, during school holidays or at the beginning or end of the school day. We also recognise that, on occasions, students may feel slightly 'under the weather' without being too unwell to attend school. Where appropriate, we are happy to support students who are feeling a little below par while they remain in school and continue to access their learning. Regular attendance is important not only for academic progress but also for friendships, confidence, wellbeing and a sense of belonging. 90% attendance over a school year equates to approximately four weeks of school missed and can mean around 100 hours of learning lost. That is a significant amount of learning and can make it more difficult for students to keep up with their peers.

At Moorside, we have high expectations for uniform, appearance, behaviour, punctuality and respect for others. These expectations are important because they help us create a safe, calm and positive environment where every student can learn and feel a strong sense of belonging. However, high expectations must always be accompanied by strong support. As Head of Year, one of my key responsibilities is to help students develop the resilience, confidence and independence they need to overcome challenges.

Year 7 is a wonderful opportunity for students to try new things, embrace challenges and understand that making mistakes is a natural and important part of learning. I want every student to develop the confidence to step outside their comfort zone, learn from setbacks and keep trying when things become difficult. We also encourage students to speak to a member of staff whenever they have a question, concern or problem. There will always be adults at Moorside who are ready to listen, support and help them find a way forward.

Whilst academic achievement is incredibly important, we see our role as being about much more than examination results. We want our young people to develop into confident, resilient, respectful and socially responsible young adults who are prepared to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Throughout Year 7, students will have many opportunities to develop beyond the classroom. One exciting opportunity will be supporting our transition and Open Evening events, where students can share their experiences of starting secondary school with our current Year 6 pupils and their families. These opportunities help students to develop confidence, communication skills, responsibility and leadership while allowing them to recognise just how much they have already achieved since arriving at Moorside.

Ultimately, my aim is for every student to develop the skills, attitudes and confidence they need to thrive in the classroom, build positive relationships and prepare themselves for the more challenging years ahead.

We understand that the transition to secondary school can bring many questions, both for students and parents/carers. Communication between home and school is therefore incredibly important to us. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition, please contact us at MHSTransition@consilium-at.com.

We will also be running two more after-school drop-in sessions:

- Thursday 17th September – Academic Focus. 15:15 – 16:00
- Thursday 24th September – Settling-In Focus. 15:15-16:00

We want to build a positive partnership with families from the very beginning. If your child is finding something difficult, needs additional encouragement or simply has something they are proud of, please do not hesitate to get in touch. By working together, we can ensure that your child receives the support and encouragement they need to make the very best start to secondary school.

I am incredibly excited about the year ahead and the opportunities that Year 7 will bring. Starting secondary school is the beginning of an important new chapter, and I want every student to look back on their first year at Moorside with a real sense of pride in how much they have grown. There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way, but there will also be countless opportunities to learn, make new friends, discover new interests and develop as a young person. With high expectations, strong support and a positive partnership between home and school, I am confident that we can make Year 7 a happy, successful and memorable year for every student.

I look forward to working closely with you and your child throughout the year and to celebrating their successes along the way.

Best wishes,

Miss E Wells
Head of Year 7

