

11th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin a new academic year, I am delighted to introduce myself as your child's new Head of Year 10. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to work with, support and mentor your child throughout what I hope will be a rewarding and memorable two years.

Year 10 marks the beginning of a particularly important chapter in your child's education as they embark upon their two-year GCSE courses. Although their final examinations may seem a long way away, the foundations they build throughout Year 10 will be crucial to their success in their GCSEs and beyond. My aim is not only to support students in achieving their academic potential, but also to help them develop the confidence, resilience, independence and social responsibility they need to thrive beyond the walls of Moorside High School.

I want every student to look back on their time in Year 10 with a sense of pride. There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way, but there will also be opportunities to make new memories, build positive relationships, discover new interests and develop skills that will stay with them long after they leave school.

Consistent effort and commitment are essential if your child is to make the progress of which they are capable. Alongside this, regular attendance and good punctuality are incredibly important.

At Moorside High School, we have high expectations for attendance and strive for every student to achieve **96% or above**. We fully appreciate that illness and circumstances beyond a family's control can sometimes make absence unavoidable. However, we would ask parents and carers to consider carefully whether their child is well enough to attend school and, wherever possible, arrange medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. If your child is feeling slightly under the weather but is well enough to attend, please do send them into school. We have a nurturing and supportive environment in place, and we will always do our best to look after them and support them throughout the school day. The impact of absence can be significant. For example, a student whose attendance falls to 90% is classed as a persistent absentee and could miss approximately 95 hours of learning over the course of an academic year. Every lesson matters, and being in school every day gives students the best possible opportunity to access the teaching, guidance, resources and support that our staff work incredibly hard to provide.

Your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives on time makes a real difference. It is one of the most important ways we can work together to support their future success.

Whilst academic achievement is extremely important, I see my role as Head of Year 10 as being about much more than examination results. I want to help develop the whole young person and ensure that students leave Moorside equipped with the skills, experiences and confidence they need for the next stage of their lives.

Throughout the year, there will be a range of exciting opportunities for students to develop their independence, resilience, determination and leadership skills. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award will provide one such opportunity, alongside work experience, college and apprenticeship applications and other activities designed to help students begin thinking positively about their future.

These experiences are incredibly valuable and can help students discover strengths and interests that they may not yet realise they possess.

Expectations at Moorside High School remain high, in line with our school and Trust policies. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels welcomed, safe, valued and supported, and has the confidence and opportunities to succeed.

As Head of Year 10, I will work tirelessly alongside our pastoral and teaching teams to support students in meeting these high expectations. However, the strongest support comes when school and home, work together. Your encouragement, guidance and involvement will be invaluable in helping your child navigate the challenges and opportunities that Year 10 will bring.

The start of a new academic year is a wonderful opportunity for a fresh start. I hope your child returns feeling energised, positive and excited about the opportunities ahead. There is so much for them to look forward to, and I am genuinely looking forward to getting to know them, supporting their development and celebrating their successes along the way.

I would like to wish your child a happy, successful and memorable Year 10. There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way, but by working together, supporting one another and maintaining high expectations, I am confident that we can help every student to overcome those challenges and make the very most of the opportunities ahead.

I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

Kind regards,

Mr M Doro
Head of Year 10

