

11th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your child's Head of Year 11. Having worked at Moorside High School for the past ten years and having recently supported our previous Year 11 cohort through their final year, I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with your child during this important stage of their education.

I am very much looking forward to working collaboratively with you throughout the year. Your support and encouragement at home will be invaluable as we work together to ensure that every student is able to make the most of the opportunities ahead. I am excited to build upon the successes that this year group has already achieved over the past four years and to support them through the challenges, achievements and memorable moments that Year 11 will bring.

I am passionate about the values and ambitions of Moorside High School and strongly believe in creating a supportive, inclusive environment where every young person feels valued, challenged and capable of succeeding.

Year 10 was a busy and productive year, with students beginning to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. I would particularly like to congratulate them on their attitude and application during the recent mock examinations. For many students, this was their first real experience of the routines and expectations associated with formal examinations. We received a great deal of positive feedback from staff and invigilators regarding the mature and purposeful way in which students approached the examination process.

Students have also now had their first glimpse of what life as a Year 11 student will look like, including the introduction of their new Personal Development schedules. Their maturity and commitment in adapting to these changes in routine and structure have been commendable, and I am confident that they will continue to rise to the challenges ahead.

Year 11 is an important and exciting year in your child's education. It represents the culmination of the learning, preparation and development that has taken place throughout their time at Moorside High School. This year, students will sit their GCSE examinations, and it is crucial that they make the most of every opportunity available to them. Every lesson, revision session and intervention provides an opportunity to strengthen understanding, address gaps in knowledge and make further progress.

Students will be supported throughout the year through high-quality teaching, targeted interventions and revision opportunities. However, their own commitment, effort and willingness to engage fully with these opportunities will also play an important role in helping them achieve their potential.

I have already been incredibly impressed by the positive attitude and work ethic shown by many students. The turnout at revision sessions before the mock examinations was encouraging, as was the number of students who independently approached staff to ask for additional work, guidance and support. These are exactly the kinds of positive habits that will help students to succeed throughout Year 11.

Establishing positive relationships and maintaining high standards will be a key priority for me this year. I will invest time in getting to know the students as individuals, understanding their ambitions and aspirations, and supporting them when they face challenges.

I firmly believe that every student has the capacity to achieve great things, and for that reason, I make no apology for having high expectations. I expect every student to:

- Give their best effort, even when they find something challenging.
- Attend school regularly and arrive on time.
- Respect one another and all members of staff.
- Take responsibility for their learning and preparation.
- Make the most of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.
- Show resilience when things do not always go to plan.

However, high expectations must always be accompanied by strong support. Year 11 can be demanding, and there may be times when students need guidance, encouragement or additional help. The Year 11 team will be there to support students throughout the year, and we are committed to working closely with families to ensure that no student feels they have to face challenges alone.

To make the most of the opportunities available to them, it is essential that students attend school regularly. At Moorside High School, we strive for every student to achieve attendance of **96% or above**. In Year 11, every lesson matters. Missing learning can quickly create gaps in knowledge, particularly as courses become increasingly focused on preparing students for their final examinations. We understand that illness and unavoidable circumstances can sometimes lead to absence. However, wherever possible, we ask that families support students in maintaining consistent attendance and punctuality throughout the year. One day of absence may not seem significant, but missed learning can quickly add up. The key is to ensure that one day does not become a pattern. Our message to every Year 11 student is simple: Be here. Be on time. Be prepared. Make every day count. Self-discipline, resilience and a strong work ethic are qualities that will serve students not only throughout their GCSE examinations, but also as they move on to college, apprenticeships, employment and beyond.

During Year 10, students began to explore the exciting opportunities available to them after leaving Moorside. I had the pleasure of accompanying the year group on a college taster day, where students were able to explore their interests, discover new possibilities and gain an insight into life beyond secondary school. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm with which students engaged in these experiences, and the feedback we received from college staff was extremely positive. Similarly, following their two-day work experience placements, we received excellent feedback from a number of employers, who spoke highly of our students' diligence, maturity and initiative. It has been incredibly encouraging to see students taking advantage of these opportunities and beginning to think seriously about their Post-16 pathways and future ambitions. Throughout Year 11, we will continue to support them as they make important decisions about their next steps.

Year 11 is an opportunity to reflect on how far students have come, celebrate the successes they have already achieved and set ambitious goals for the future. Success comes in many forms, and it is important that we recognise and celebrate academic, personal and extracurricular achievements throughout the year. I am genuinely excited to see what this year group can achieve. They have already demonstrated their potential, and I believe that, with commitment, resilience and the right support, every student can make their final year at Moorside one to be proud of.

Finally, I would like to thank you and your families for your continued support and engagement. I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with you as we help your child prepare for the final chapter of their Moorside journey. Together, we can ensure that Year 11 is not only a successful year academically, but also a positive, rewarding and memorable experience for every student.

Kind regards,

Mrs D Chrimes
Head of Year 11

