

13<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

In this first letter since we received our own, and national, exam results for 2018, I want to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our students and staff. The GCSE results achieved mean that Levenshulme is in the top 2% of schools nationally for the progress made by students in their time at the school. Most of the other schools in this group are selective and we are above any other comprehensive school in Greater Manchester. This is a huge achievement and builds on the successes of the previous few years – even though students were sitting the new, more challenging GCSEs in almost every subject. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, commitment and ambition of everyone that has brought us this sustained excellence.

Our new, Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time here, and as always have been well supported by the older students. We have seen plenty of creativity and engagement with their Journey Journals and the DREAM Day curriculum, both of which are unique to the Year 7 experience here. In the last week of this term they are all taking part in a Dream Day trip to the Royal Northern College of Music and most are going on a maths trip to Chester Zoo.

As ever, it has been a busy time for all of our students, especially those girls who have been completing college applications and organising their work experience. Year 11 will be completing their Pre-Public Examinations in January as part of their preparation for their GCSE exams in the summer. The holidays are an important time to ensure that students have some rest and that study patterns continue too - there are resources on our website to help you to support your daughter with her studies, and there are plenty of resources continuously available online so no-one should be bored during the break! In recognition of the hard work, high attendance and positive attitudes to learning the vast majority of students have also had the opportunity to take part in rewards trips at the end of term – to events chosen by the students themselves, including Inflatation, bowling and the Winter Wonderland.

The students in every year group are showing a real commitment to their learning and to their own personal development and skills and we are very confident that progress will again be excellent in 2019. We are always keen to support our students as they work to become more independent and resilient, and our Heads of Progress are working with faculties to ensure that this year will see an even greater focus on study skills and students' understanding of how they learn well. There are lots of resources available to enable independent skills and knowledge development – through our website and VLE as well as books – and we would encourage you to sit with your daughter and ask her to show you what she uses or could use. Please remember, too, to encourage your daughter to read for pleasure – not only does this help with her wellbeing but it also builds and enriches her vocabulary, a vital part of academic success. Please take a look at our new website section “Your daughter and reading” which can be found under the “Parents” tab. You’ll find lots of advice on how to support your daughter in this important aspect of her school life and plenty of book recommendations too.

We have also enjoyed a full range of other exciting, interesting and enriching opportunities, visits and experiences. There have been guest speakers sharing their careers experiences from sectors including media, medicine and the tech industry – as the world of work becomes more varied and complex it is important to help students understand as many as possible of the routes open to them.

There has been lots of charitable activity, with each house choosing a homelessness charity to focus their fundraising and other activities on. Next half term the first 201819 edition of 'Levenshulme Life' magazine will be produced, with lots of articles and pictures from the first half of this school year, so look out for that. Once again, our student leadership recruitment programme has been hugely successful. We are delighted that there is an even wider range of student leaders taking responsibility for all sorts of aspects of school life, including such diverse areas as careers, wellbeing and subject-specific mentoring.

Christmas is often a time of year when students receive new phones. Please take the opportunity over the festive period to speak to your daughter about her use of her phone; what apps she likes to use and how she protects herself online. A great place to look for information is <https://www.getsafeonline.org/> which has lots of advice on a range of topics. You can also follow <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety> on Twitter, who release new information every week about games and online trends. As always, we are working with Manchester City Council and the police to keep students as safe as possible both in and out of school. For example, Operation Encompass is continuing, which means that the police contact school if students have been involved in incidents at home or other places outside school.

As part of our work with Manchester's Digital Skills network, we have been offered the chance to host a workshop for parents who want help getting started online. We are looking at running a day in January, helping people on a one-to-one basis (or one-to-two if you want to bring a friend) getting set up with email, applying for and managing Universal Credit, housing benefit or just learning some new skills. If you are interested, please telephone the Headteacher's PA (Mrs Tebb) to register an interest. We will be in contact in the New Year to arrange a specific date and time.

The current school term ends on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. This will be a non-uniform day, for which we request a donation of at least 50p to our House charities, and school will finish at **1.00pm**. There will be a range of activities taking place, including time with form groups and celebration assemblies. School will reopen at the normal time on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January** 2019, so please ensure that your daughter arrives promptly by **8.25**. The dates for the 201920 school calendar will be appearing soon on the school website and we will email them out to parents/carers who have given us their email address. If you have not given us an email address, please do contact school with that information.

Can I remind you, also, to consider everyone's safety when dropping off or collecting students around the school gates. Careful and courteous driving is very important to protect your daughters. As you prepare for the new term, please remember that leggings are not part of school uniform (even worn with a skirt) and that facial and ear piercings are not allowed – so please do not allow your daughter to have any piercings done during the holidays. Shoes should be plain black and there should be no boots worn with trousers tucked in – we should not be able to see boot tops. The school uniform policy is on the website if you need to check.

The staff and governors wish you and your families a restful break and a happy and healthy 2019.

Yours sincerely



Dr Johan MacKinnon, PhD  
Academy Headteacher



a member of the  
**EDUCATION**  
and  
**LEADERSHIP**  
Trust