

19th December 2016

End of Term

Dear Parents/Carers

This has been another wonderful term for staff and students in school, and the arrival of Ofsted inspectors on the 5th and 6th of October heralded the start of the next stage in our life as a school – as an **OUTSTANDING** school. The sense of pride and achievement in school is enormous and we are re-energised for the challenge now of sustaining this excellence so that girls in the years to come continue to benefit from the high quality care, teaching and experiences that the inspectors recognised when they were here. The sentence from the report which sums up the last few years best, I think, is this: **‘Leaders and staff have created a culture which brings out the best in everyone, where morale is high, no-one is afraid to learn from mistakes and where parents can be sure their daughters are safe from harm’.**

In September we always look closely at our exam results and use them to support our planning for the year ahead. The girls who sat their GCSEs in 2016 were extremely successful, like their predecessors in 2015, and have led the way for other year groups to try to match and exceed their achievements. The inspection report recognised this in saying **‘The girls at Levenshulme High School achieve results which are much better than other pupils nationally with similar starting points’.** Students of all ages made a brilliant start to the year and the new Year 7 cohort have settled in very happily and are working hard. Year 11 have recently received the results of their PPEs (‘mock’ exams), which they had approached with great maturity, and are now using those results to drive further improvement towards the real exams in the summer. Please help your daughters to succeed by talking to them about their learning and using all of the resources available for both parents and students – our website has many links to advice and resources that can support you with this.

We had the pleasure of catching up with our class of 2016 when they came back for their Celebration Evening in November. For this event we were also delighted to have John Shiels as our guest speaker – John is the Chief Executive of the Manchester United Foundation, the educational charity that is part of Manchester United FC. School became a United Foundation Hub School in June of this year, which is an exciting development that brings support for academic development programmes in school alongside a lot of exciting opportunities for our students through the football club. To launch this relationship formally we had the honour of hosting a visit from Sir Bobby and Lady Norma Charlton to school earlier this term, giving staff and students the opportunity to meet and present to a local sporting legend. Our guests were very impressed with the students that they met, particularly in their leadership and how well they spoke about their ambitions to make a difference. We are very proud of how our students behave and work together and represent the school when they are out at events. The inspectors were very complimentary about student conduct, saying that **‘behaviour in lessons and around school leaves nothing to be desired’** and **‘across the school there is a culture of mutual respect’.**



There has, as always, been a wonderful range of activities and events both in and out of school for girls to get involved with. For example, we have had girls performing 'The Tempest' in the Schools' Shakespeare Festival, visiting Oxford University, attending a film festival in Manchester with the languages faculty and taking part in an ever-increasing range of inter-form competitions and local/national competitions (such as football, netball, Debate Mate). Please talk to your daughter about her school experience beyond lessons and encourage her to get involved with clubs, leadership and other enriching activities – these all make a really important contribution to the girls' personal development as well as academic achievement. As inspectors said, **'There is exceptional opportunity for pupils to become leaders in many areas'**. Levenshulme students won the 'Vocab Express' vocabulary competition for Urdu again and so are still national champions. The Languages faculty also arranged a series of events in September to celebrate Languages Week – culminating in a languages fair which raised several hundred pounds for Médecins Sans Frontières. Charity fundraising is an important part of school life and links closely to our values, so thank you for supporting your daughters in this with donations. Pictures, stories and links for a wide range of trips and other activities are available on the school **website** – so please do have a look. Look out, too, for the spring edition of **'Levenshulme Life'** which will have lots more news about events.

Our annual careers fair was held throughout the day on 7th October, attended by representatives from local colleges and training providers. All Year 10 and 11 students visited it as part of their day and younger students had the opportunity to drop in at break. Feedback from the students was, as usual, very positive. This was just one of many of the strands of excellent careers provision that is in place throughout the year for students of all ages. The Ofsted inspectors were very impressed with the careers support in school, saying in the report **'Very well-planned and well-resourced careers information, advice and guidance ensure that pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education'**. Year 10 will be going out on work experience in the spring and over half of the girls have already secured a placement independently, which is a remarkable achievement.

We are required to **consult parents/carers** on the Trust Student Admissions Policy. The policy can be found on the school website in the section called policies. Please could you take time to read this document and let us know if you would like to make any comments **by Monday 9th January 2017**. Replies can be posted to school or emailed to head@levenshulmehigh.co.uk. Thank you for taking the time to do so.

The current school term ends on **Thursday 22nd 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 9th January 2017**, so please ensure that your daughter arrives promptly by **8.25am**. This letter is accompanied by a document detailing the dates for the 2017-18 school calendar – these are also available on the school website.

Can I remind you, also, to consider everyone's safety when dropping off or collecting students around the school gates as it gets very busy. Careful and courteous driving is very important to protect your daughters. As you prepare for the new term, please remember that you should not send your daughter to school in skinny trousers or leggings. Shoes should be plain black and there should be no boots worn with trousers or leggings tucked in – we should not be able to see boot tops. The school uniform policy is on the website if you need to check.

Please accept the good wishes of the staff and governors for a restful winter break and a happy and healthy 2017.

Yours faithfully



Dr Johan MacKinnon, PhD
Academy Headteacher

