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Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first term of this school year, following another excellent set of exam results in 2017 which show that the progress our students are making puts us in the top 10% of schools nationally. Our new Year 7 students have settled in brilliantly – welcomed and supported really well by the older girls. We have been really pleased by the way that they have been engaging with their unique Journey Journals and lots of girls have won prizes for their creativity and commitment. It has been a very busy time of year for our Year 11 students. They have completed a range of Pre-Public Examinations and college applications, as well as working with an increased sense of dedication and determination towards their academic success. The holidays are an important time to ensure that students have some rest and that study patterns continue too. Plenty of resources are continuously available online so no-one should be bored during the break!

Girls 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 2018. 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. Developing strategies that support revision and organisation, whilst also making sure girls know how to research and improve areas they have found difficult, will be a priority for each year group through Focus Days and in all subject areas. 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.

We are delighted that there is a bigger than ever 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. It makes me very proud to see so many students taking their responsibilities seriously and rising to the challenge of keeping our school a successful, happy and exciting place for all of us. We currently have almost 500 students with a leadership responsibility – some with more than one! Please take the opportunity to talk to your daughter about the responsibilities she has taken on, as well as other aspects of her learning.

We currently have vacancies on our school Local Governing Body and Trust Board for parent governors (one for each). If you are interested in becoming a parent governor and supporting the work of the school in this way, please email my PA – Ms Tebb – to find out more (at [ctebb@levenshulmehigh.co.uk](mailto:ctebb@levenshulmehigh.co.uk)). You can also look at the governors section of our website to get more information.

Our Year 10 drama students gave an exceptional performance of Macbeth at the Schools Shakespeare Festival in November – and also performed it for all of Year 11, who are studying Macbeth for their GCSE English literature. Everything about the performance was stunning and it has raised even further our already high expectations of what our students can do. We are looking with great excitement now to our next school show – a musical version of 'Bend it Like Beckham' – which will be taking place in the next half term.

Please look out for the dates and come and enjoy the show. There have been lots of other events and trips taking place throughout this term – including sporting competitions, performances, theatre visits, debating, science trips and Languages Week. Next half term the next edition of our '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.

The Manchester Safeguarding Board and Greater Manchester Police are starting a new way of working with schools and supporting children through improved communication with us about incidents that take place outside of school – particularly in the home – and have asked us to tell you about this. It is called Operation Encompass and involves immediate police liaison with specific, named, 'Key Adults' in school so that we have the information we need to provide any support needed to a child as soon as possible. The key adults in school will be Ms Johnson, Deputy Headteacher, and Ms Schofield, Lead Child Protection Officer. The way that school works with students and families will not change, so we will continue to provide support as always.

The current school term ends on **Friday 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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017**, so please ensure that your daughter arrives promptly by **8.25am**.

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 2018.

Yours sincerely



Dr Johan MacKinnon, PhD  
Academy Headteacher



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Trust