

18th July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As another academic year draws to a close, I would like to start by saying thank you for your support and how proud I am of all that has been achieved this year. The summer term is always very intense – with the combination of exams (be that GCSEs for Year 11 or end of year school exams for Years 7-10) and summer events meaning that every minute is filled. It is great credit to the motivation and commitment of staff and students alike that high-quality learning has been taking place right through to the end of term.

We had a wonderful 2 days in which we were joined by the Year 6 students who will be embarking on their high school journey with us in September. They enjoyed a range of lessons on the Monday as they began to get familiarity with the buildings and routines and then had a fantastic team-building day with their new tutor groups on the Tuesday. This day is a great opportunity to get to know the older girls in the form group for next year, and start to build the relationships which will be so important for the future – as they see the older girls experience the different stages of their school career and learn from them. Year 10 students also attended our annual ‘Stepping into the Future’ careers day at the University of Manchester, in which they meet lots of people from higher education as well as employers and continue to explore what their ambitions and possible careers might be.

This has been a very successful year for students entering all sorts of competitions beyond school – whether that is in sport, writing, business & enterprise or other activities. For example, four of our students were taken to the beautiful Portico Library in Manchester City Centre to celebrate their achievements in the Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers & Writers. They won awards for their locally-based stories and for their books reviews. Their work will be published in a professionally published anthology. Our winners were also interviewed by North Manchester FM Radio. Also, our Inclusion Sports team are now Greater Manchester champions in New Age Kurling and Goalball and were silver medallists in Boccia – a fantastic achievement.

In curriculum development, we are very pleased to have carried out our first walking tour of Manchester, as part of our Year 7 Dream Day curriculum. It is important to us that our students know as much as possible about what this great city has to offer them – in sport, culture, leisure as well as in education and career opportunities. Towards that, we invest time in exploring all of these aspects across the 5 years of secondary school – beginning with the themes of belonging and identity that run through the Dream Day curriculum and then evolving in different ways across Years 8-11. The careers programme is a vital part of that, and we are indebted to colleagues at the universities and a wide range of businesses for their support in providing work experience and coming into school to talk to students. A development for September onwards, which we hope will help families to support the students at home, is that we will be sending out information by email at the start of each term about what your daughter will be learning in that term. This information will also be available on the school website, but please do let us know if there is any change to your contact details so that we can make sure that you get information and reports quickly and easily. This also helps us to reduce printing and save paper, which is an important part of trying to reduce our impact on the environment.

Student leadership, as you know, is a hugely important part of our school and our students' preparation for the next stage of their lives. As part of this, the girls have chosen to focus a major part of their campaigning and fundraising efforts for next year on tackling hate crime. We will be working closely with our partners in GM Citizens and the charity Mothers Against Violence on this, and will be involved in feeding community views into the building of priorities for the office of the Mayor of Greater Manchester. Some of our student leaders also attended Manchester's first Climate Summit for young people last week, and will be working on what we can do as a school community to help to reduce our negative impact on the environment. As part of this, I want to encourage you to enable your daughters to walk more to school, or use public transport, and use cars less. You may have seen or heard some of the many reports in recent months about the poor air quality around schools – and the impact on children's health - because of car traffic, and we hope that we can improve this around Levenshulme with your support. If you are dropping off or picking up your daughter, please also try to do this at a safe distance from school and be mindful of both student and traffic safety when doing so.

At this point, it is timely to give some other practical information and reminders. The vast majority of our students look very smart every day –but there still seems to be some confusion about what is acceptable as trousers. Students should not be wearing leggings/jeggings or denim trousers (ie jeans) to school – regardless of what shops may label them as or how they may display them in a school uniform section. Trousers should also be full length, not skimming the ankles. Footwear should be plain black shoes or trainers – if boots are worn they must be tucked underneath trouser legs so as to look like shoes. Girls should also not be wearing earrings or facial piercings and make-up is not allowed. We hope that students wear their uniform with pride, as part of belonging to school but also because taking pride in your appearance is an important part of preparing for a career.

This letter is accompanied by a set of other communications – please take time to read through them all as they contain important information about the start of next term and attendance. We value highly what our students have to say and take time to listen to their views regularly on matters affecting school life – then try to act on their ideas. Accompanying this letter is a sheet that shows some examples of student feedback during this year and what has happened in response. We are also giving your daughters some information on activities taking place over the summer and sources of information and support that are available to them. **School starts for students on Wednesday 4th September** – specific details for each year group are on a separate sheet with this letter. **Year 7** will also be having a teambuilding day on **Thursday 5th September**, and so will need to come to school in **PE kit** on that day. Remember to make sure that your ParentPay accounts have money in them for the start of term ready to buy school lunches without any problems on the first day.

This has been a fantastic year for the school and our students, we are very proud of all of the girls' achievements and development, and I wish you and your family a relaxing, safe and happy summer.

Yours sincerely



Dr Johan MacKinnon, PhD
Academy Headteacher



a member of the
EDUCATION
and
LEADERSHIP
Trust