

July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please may I take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your support this year. We are proud of the strong partnership between school and home and it has been my pleasure once again to work with you this year. Thank you for supporting our school values of **Manners, Hard Work and Honesty** so that together we can achieve **Success** for the students.

The Class of 2024

We were delighted that over 500 families chose Mossley Hollins as a preference for their child in September. This means that once again, our Year 7 is heavily oversubscribed and we have a waiting list with many parents appealing for a place with us. We are proud that our reputation in the community is strong but do not take for granted the trust that families place in us and will continue to work hard to improve our provision. We welcomed Year 6 to the school earlier this month for their two transition days. The first day was at Ashton Sixth Form College where students learnt what it means to be part of the Mossley Hollins community and the importance of the 'Mossley Hollins Way'. The day finished with an Investiture Ceremony where every child signed the Mossley Hollins Charter and received a certificate welcoming them to our school. The second day, which was spent in school, allowed students to sample a variety of lessons including English, mathematics, science and the Arts so that students could put the Mossley Hollins Way into practice. We look forward to officially welcoming the Class of 2024 in September.

End of year and start of 2019-20 school year

School will close at **12.10pm on Friday 19th July 2019**.

The Autumn Term begins for pupils on **Tuesday 3rd September 2019**.

- Form lessons start for Year 7 students at 8:40 a.m. (school will be open from 7.30am and breakfast available from 8.00am)
- Students in year 8, 9 10 and 11 should arrive at form rooms for 9:40 to start at 9.45am.

Please note - staff will be in school training and preparing for the year ahead on Monday 2nd September 2019.

Further Improvements to our School: Our New Curriculum

With increased expectations of what students need to learn, remember and understand, high quality learning time is essential for success. Each year we review key aspects of our school provision in order to ensure that your child is provided with the best opportunities to develop into a healthy young adult with the best chances of academic and personal success. This year we undertook an extended five-month review of our curriculum offer. This school improvement process took place against a background of significant national change in education, including a requirement for all schools to provide a broad, balanced and rich curriculum. Following a full consultation process, the timings and structure of our school day have changed slightly from September. Therefore, next year:

- There will be an increase in the number of lessons each week for all students. This will provide additional teaching time for key subjects and will enhance the opportunities for the study of Life Skills.

- You will recall from earlier correspondence that the school day times will change from September. The start time will remain the same and students will need to be in school, ready to learn by 8.40am. The normal school day will end at 3.00pm every day, except for separate science students who will finish at 4.00pm on Monday and year 7 nurture students who will finish at 4.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday. **Please note there is no longer an earlier finish on Friday.**
- On Mondays, there will be six lessons rather than five; this will mean that break and lunchtime will be slightly earlier than at present. The timings of break and lunchtimes will remain as they are now on all other days.

Uniform

We are very proud of the way our students present themselves and receive many positive comments about the standard of their appearance. Please remember the important information regarding uniform, especially shoes, so that we can begin the learning next year without delay or distraction. Please see the school website for more information. The uniform is available for sale at Simply School wear in Greenfield and at Debonair in Ashton-under-Lyne.

Mobile Phones

May we remind all students that **mobile phones and smart devices are not permitted in school.** If discovered, any such devices will be confiscated for a period of 3 weeks (or until the end of the term/half term whichever is sooner) Students who wish to bring phones to school must hand them into student reception at the start of the day and collect them at 3.00pm. I do not want this issue to ever get in the way of learning and remain grateful for your support.

Lockers

It is important that every student has a locker to store coats, PE kits and bags. Years 10 and 11 will need a secure place to store bags during internal and external examinations and it is compulsory that they have a locker for this purpose. Lockers are allocated on the first day; please send a refundable deposit of £5.

Important Information for the New Academic Year: Staff Leaving and New Appointments

As is the case in every school at the end of an academic year, we say farewell to a number of staff. The following staff will be starting new posts in September due to promotions, ends of contract, and or relocations.

Miss J Fisher – Senior Leader Maths - End of maternity contract
 Mr G Leitheiser - SENDCo – End of contract
 Mr K Donohue - Modern Foreign Languages - Relocation
 Miss A Farmer - English – End of contract
 Miss J Forbes – Science - End of contract
 Miss A Jones – Literacy Teaching Assistant - Begins Initial Teacher training in September
 Miss G Newton RS - End of contract
 Mrs L McDonald - Attendance and Pupil Development Officer - Change of role
 Mr A Griffiths-English - New teaching position at Droylsden Academy

We thank all our colleagues for their contribution to our young peoples' learning and wish them well in their new roles.

A number of new staff will join us in the new term:

Ms E Upton – Assistant Headteacher, Senior Leader of Standards in English and Literacy
 Mr N Spencer – Coordinator of Science
 Mr S Fisher - Teacher of ICT/ Business/ Computer Science
 Ms C McLaughlin -Teacher of Science and Head of Year – Nightingale College

Ms H Michell - Teacher of English
Miss K Humphries –Teacher of Spanish
Mrs W Marshall - Attendance and Pupil Development Officer
Mrs C Harker - Teaching Assistant Literacy and Looked after Children

We wish our new colleagues every success in their new roles.

New reports to parents

For the first time in many years, we plan to change the way we report your child's progress and attainment from September 2019. There will be three reports each year, (one per term) which will provide much more information about your child's progress attainment and learning than the current progress checks. There will no longer be written reports from subjects but there will be a written report from the form mentor, which will highlight their personal development. There are three main reasons this significant change, which we believe, will provide a much more comprehensive picture of your child's progress and achievements and will:

1. give precise and up to date information about your child benchmarked against class, school and national data.
2. avoid the duplication of written comments with verbal comments that teachers have with parents on parents' evenings
3. reduce unnecessary workload for teachers in line with the national government advisory report

The dates for the parents' evenings and reports are as follows

	Parents' evening and Report issued	Form mentor report issued	Final report issued
Year 7	Thursday 26 th March 2020	17 th January 2020	13 th July 2020
Year 8	Thursday 30 th April 2020	24 th January 2020	15 th July 2020
Year 9	Thursday 30 th January 2020	15 th May 2020	13 th July 2020
Year 10	Thursday 23 rd April 2020	28 th November 2019	14 th July 2020
Year 11	Thursday 12 th December 2019	10 th March 2020	7 th May 2020

Thank you once again for your fantastic support this year. On behalf of all students, staff and governors may we wish you a wonderful summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,



S. Marshall
Headteacher
Mossley Hollins High School