



December 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Christmas – End of Term Letter

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. As Christmas approaches and we take time to enjoy the festive season we are reminded that we live through very challenging times. As we deal with a cost of living crisis and political uncertainty, it is important that we remember that communities need to support each other. When communities do work together, great things can happen. Mossley Hollins High School is part of your local community and we are here to support our students and families as we approach the difficult months ahead.

Open Evening 2023

Our annual Open Evening took place in September when we invited Year 5 and 6 pupils from local primary schools, along with their families and other members of the community, to visit our school. Over 800 people attended the evening and it was lovely to hear so many positive comments from our visitors. Around 300 students gave up their time to attend the Open Evening and help staff with displays, activities and performances. Our students were an absolute credit to their families, and to Mossley Hollins High School, and many of our visitors commented on how friendly, confident, polite and helpful they were.

As has been the case for many years, the current Year 7 is full and oversubscribed and we have an extensive waiting list of students who wish to join us. Early Indications are that Mossley Hollins will be a popular choice again in 2024.

Student Attendance

It is very pleasing to report that the school's attendance figures are in the top 20% of the country in 2023 and persistent absence (students absent for 10% or more in the year) was amongst the very lowest in the country in that year. This is fabulous news and means that a significantly high percentage of MHHS students, in relation to students nationally, can go on to Level 3 (A Level or Equivalent, Post-16 Study). It is this strong attendance to school and focus in class that makes all the difference. Thank you to our families and to our outstanding Attendance Team.

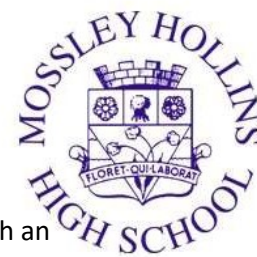
The Wider Co-Curriculum – Developing Character

I hope that you find the time to read our 'revamped' weekly Newsflash each Friday. Having listened to some very useful and constructive parental feedback, the document is much smaller and is focussed on all the amazing activities which our students are getting involved in. I am incredibly proud of the achievements and efforts of our students and I am immensely grateful for the time given by so many staff to ensure that our students develop those important character traits of *learning, leadership, service and participation*. Students and staff have been busy during the Autumn term, see below for some of the highlights:

- The Year 8 football team started the season well with an impressive 5-0 victory against Great Academy Ashton. The Year 11's produced an excellent performance the week after to beat Laurus Rycroft 4-1 with Elliot Lawrence scoring a hat trick. The Year 7 football team have made an impressive start to the season with 2 victories against St Damians and Laurus Rycroft, with Eddie Moreland scoring a hat trick in both games. Finally, the Year 9s best performance was against St Damians when Archie Blay scored a hat trick to help the team win 4-3.

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- The Year 7 netball team have been the stand out performer's in netball when they won 5 games out of 5 to finish in 1st position in the Tameside tournament. The Year 8 netball team played against St Damians in their first game of the season with an outstanding performance to win 11-0. Congratulations to all the girls involved.
- Sophie Potts, Gracie Naggs and Ava Hanson in Year 10 all represented the school at Barclay's "Game Changer" event focused on increasing girls' participation in football. Outside of school we have also had a number of pupils with fantastic achievements in their sport including Amber Loughman (boxing), Amber Williams (Show jumping) and, Isaac Mason (cricket).
- Our Cross-Country participants once again produced some excellent individual performances with Eddie Moreland who finished in 1st place to become Tameside Champion 2023.
- The continued success of the wide range of electives running for our year 7 students, including Badminton, Dance, Music, JASS, Swimming, Performing and Creative Arts.
- In October the Mossley and Carrbrook Schools Partnership (MCSP) primary schools took part in the first competition of the year. The Year 5 and 6 pupils played rugby and the tournament was a huge success with Year 8 pupils Isaac Holloway and Oli Waterhouse leading the event.
- Further MCSP events this term included a maths battle, our first MCSP Debate of the year and our MCSP Spanish Day.
- Ex-students from the 'Class of 2023' joined us in November for their GCSE Celebration Event, some students were delighted to receive special recognition awards from their teachers, such as Excellence in Science, Excellence in Mathematics and the Young Composer Award.
- Year 11 Students have enjoyed two successful field trips, despite the challenging weather conditions.
- In November our Year 11 students were treated to a revision conference to inspire them in the lead up to their upcoming PPEs. Our staff delivered aspirational speeches, shared excellent strategies to boost knowledge for exam preparation and supported students with their wellbeing. Year 11 students were also rewarded with a special pizza lunch.
- A group of Year 10 students have been working really hard on their Level 2 Leadership Qualification where they are leading on a change project in school. They will be holding their first fundraising event next week when they host a cake sale on Thursday 14th December.
- October marked Black History Month. Students studied the achievements of the black community, celebrated their contributions to the UK and learnt about the important black historical figures who helped make Britain what it is today. Later in the term, students took part in Anti-Bullying Week.
- In November we proudly observed Armistice Day as the whole school community gathered to pay homage to the victims of war, with a number of our students reading wonderfully from a range of fiction, poetry and factual passages as part of our Power of Language Strategy.
- Students have learnt about important topics through Life Skills. Students have covered a wide range of diverse topics, including issues around mental health, substance misuse, bullying, safe use of the internet and why homophobia and racism have no place in British Society.
- Retro gaming club continues to be popular with students, this club is superbly led by four of our fabulous students in Year 9, Nominoë Duncan-Franc, Daniel Yeomans, Hunter-Meville-Terry and Oscar Newton
- Students in Design Technology and Business Studies have been busy designing, creating, marketing and selling Christmas Decorations to raise funds for Mossley Food Bank.
- GCSE Drama students along with some budding actors in Year 9 visited the Lowry to experience a fabulous show "The Ocean at the End of the Lane".
- Along with our partner primary schools in the MCSP partnership, our Christmas Jumper Day took place on Tuesday 12th December. Students and staff donated items (such as dry/ tinned food, toiletries,





gloves, scarves, hats, socks, chocolates, sweets, Christmas decorations, toys and book and were encouraged to wear a festive jumper, t-shirt, socks or a Santa hat with all proceeds going to our very worthy Mossley and Stalybridge foodbanks.

- Year 11 students have been joining their Spanish teachers after school to experience some Spanish cooking.
- We are all looking forward to the forthcoming school production of 'Singin' in the Rain'. Students have been working tirelessly since the beginning of the academic year to prepare for these performances. Tickets will be available for sale from school reception from 8th January priced at £7.
- On Wednesday evening last week, our new Head of music, Miss Lundberg, led a number of our talented musicians who took to the stage to demonstrate their musical talents to a sell-out audience. They were incredible!
- Our school band have once again been out spreading some Christmas Cheer, this week they visited residents at Sandon House and Tameside Hospital. On Wednesday, they spread some joy at Ikea and they will be visiting Ashton Markets on Thursday. Please do pop along and support if you are in the area. The band also played in school on Tuesday as students and staff enjoyed their Christmas Lunch and will be playing once again at our Christmas Carol Service on Friday 15th.
- Don't forget that our annual Christmas Carol Service takes place on Friday 15th December.

Power of Language Strategy

Our librarian and junior librarians have been very busy this term. Our junior librarians have had lots of fun this term in designing and installing displays to promote the love of reading around a range of themes. Two of our junior librarians have been doing so well they have been promoted to Senior librarians.

We have had a number of students tell us how surprised but appreciative they are when they have found a book in their locker, left by our wonderful book fairy. I am sure that she will continue to spread the joy of reading next year too.

All students have had an opportunity to enjoy activities such as the Harry Potter Escape Room, and World Book Day readings and competitions.

In addition to promoting key events through reading activities in school, such as Armistice Day, Anti-Bullying week, Black History month, Breast Cancer Awareness and Non-fiction November, Halloween brought a spooky read along by our own Wednesday Adams! (aka Miss Taylor our Librarian) and last week we held our very first Christmas read along, where over 50 children attended.

We have a record number of students visiting the library at lunch times and checking out books and are particularly pleased with the number of students who are undertaking the new academic reading challenge, with some students already earning some badges. In addition to this, our reading champions have started earning the prestigious 'Reading Champions' badge.

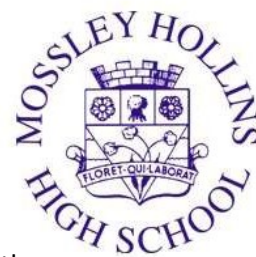
Please remind your son/daughter of our weekly book club which is held every Friday lunchtime in the Library.

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

At the end of this term we say farewell to a small number of staff, through retirement, positions closer to home or roles outside of teaching. We would like to thank Mrs Duncan for delaying her 'Early Retirement' plans by one term to ensure that our students were supported until our new Head of Faculty joins us.

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Mrs Duncan – Head of Faculty, Teacher of Food Technology.
Mr Chalmers – Middle Leader, ICT Strategy, Teacher of Computer Science and Business
Mr Lloyd – Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs Briggs – Teacher of Mathematics – as Mrs Briggs does not take up her new position at the beginning of term, she will be with us for a little while longer.

We thank all of our colleagues for their contribution to our young peoples' learning and wish them well

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

Mrs A. Goddard – Head of Religious Studies
Mr K. McGuinness – Head of Faculty Technology, Teacher of Food Technology
Miss R. Young – Teacher of Mathematics
Miss M. Hall – Teacher of English

Christmas Holidays and the Spring Term:

Mossley Hollins High School will close for the Christmas holiday on Friday 15th December at 12.00 noon for students in Years 7-10. Students in Year 11 are welcome to join us for the annual Christmas Carol service, but are also free to leave at the end of period 2 at 10:40am.

School will reopen to students for the spring term on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024**.
All students are expected in school by **8:40am ready to start lessons at 8:45am**. Any student arriving after this time will be marked late.

Safe Travel to School

If your child cycles to school, please can I urge you to ensure that they wear a safety helmet. School insists that, for their own safety, all students cycling to and from school must wear appropriate head protection.

Staff Training

Our staff will be planning for the term ahead on the INSET day on Tuesday 2nd January. This is the day before students return for the spring term. This INSET day will be used to further develop our curriculum.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Enjoy the holiday period as you spend time with your family and friends. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Din
Headteacher
Mossley Hollins High School

