



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

14th September 2018

### Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have all had a wonderful and restful summer. I would like to formally welcome the parents and carers of our new Year 7 cohort; I am fully aware that you will be nervous and anxious about how your child settles into the school. I encourage all parents, across all year groups, to make contact with your child's form tutor in the first instance if you have any concerns, queries or general feedback. In addition, if there are specific issues with a particular subject, then please contact your child's subject teacher or Key Stage Leaders and Managers. All staff can be emailed under the 'contact' link on our website (top left-hand side of the homepage) or by [clicking here](#). In this section, you can also see key staff roles so you can directly contact the right person.

I am delighted that the hard work of students and staff has been rewarded with this year's results. All at Newsome High School are very proud that the determination and effort of some of our students has seen outstanding achievement. Despite yet more significant changes to the exams and qualifications framework nationally, Year 11 students have shown overall improvements in a number of areas compared to previous years. This year has also seen significant change including changes to the curriculum and a greater focus on progress in order to ensure our school meets Government standards. These achievements allow our students to follow the path of their choice, whether that be entering higher education, apprenticeships or other further training. A significant number of our students will now progress to college or further training and I wish them all the very best for the future.

What is becoming significantly more important is a child's ability to read to a higher level and general literacy skills. The average reading age required to access exam papers is increasing in all subjects and it is important for us all to encourage our children to read as much as possible. If we read more with them and ask them questions, it will help them secure better outcomes in the future.



## The key priorities for our school this year are:

1. To improve Leadership and Management so that there is absolute consistency across the school.
2. To ensure teachers plan and teach *consistently* good and engaging lessons and ensure feedback and assessment is *consistently* good.
3. To ensure that all students are safe, well prepared and equipped for their future, regularly attend, are punctual and are model citizens, demonstrating positive attitudes to learning.
4. To ensure that ALL students achieve AT LEAST their expected target grades for ALL subjects given their starting points from Key Stage 2 with a specific focus on student groups - Most Able, Boys and disadvantaged students.

The above list isn't exhaustive and we will be driving student progress for each and every student whilst developing their confidence, happiness and future career plans.

Some parents have already been in touch regarding homework and how they can find out what has been set from each teacher. As well as using your parent logins for our ClassCharts system, you can also see homework that has been published each day through our website under the STUDENT>HOMEWORK link or by [clicking here](#). The detail of the work set can be seen by clicking on the blue box. Homework is so important to reinforce the learning in lesson and also develops independent learning skills. Please contact us if you have any feedback on the quality of homework so this can be discussed with curriculum areas.

Monday 10 Sep	Tuesday 11 Sep	Wednesday 12 Sep	Thursday 13 Sep	Friday 14 Sep	Saturday 15 Sep	Sunday 16 Sep
Y7a/Ma2 Mr A Ahmed	Y10 Entry Level Maths Mrs S Ahronson	Year 7 and 8 Mrs J Slater	Y9E/En1 English Mrs C Croft	Year 10 Maths and English Mrs J Slater		
Y7y/Ma2 Mr A Ahmed	Year 11 English Mrs J Slater	Y111/Ar1 Art Mrs Z Smart	Y7a/En1 English Mrs C Croft	Y10 Functional Skills English Mrs S Ahronson		
Year 10 Maths and English Mrs J Slater	Year 7/8 Maths Small Group Mrs S Ahronson	Y9D/E1 Eng Int Miss A Elliott	Y10D/Fr2 French Miss L Debrah	Y11y/En1 English Mrs C Croft		
Y11 Careers Mrs J Broady	Year 7 and 8 Mrs J Slater	Y11y/En2 English Mr A Squires	Y112/Gg1 Geography Mr T Carr	Y8a/Fr1 French Miss L Morgan		
Y7a/Co2 Computing Mr A Ahmed	Y10 Entry Level Maths Mrs S Ahronson	Y11y/En1 English Mrs C Croft	Y8a/Gg2 Geography Miss H Dunkerley	Y7a/Rs2 Religious Mrs A Twist		
Y9D/E1 Eng Int Miss A Elliott	Y9B/Ar1 Art Mrs Z Smart	Y7a/En2 English Mr A Squires	Y112/H1 History Mr R Bardsmith			
Y10y/En1 English Mrs C Croft	Y7y/En2 English Mrs A Greenwood	Y9E/En4 English Mrs A Greenwood	Y112/H1 History Mr R Bardsmith			
Y9D/Fr2 French Mrs R Fox	Y10y/En1 English Mrs A Greenwood	Y7a/Fr1 French Miss L Debrah	Y11y/Rs1 Religious Mrs A Twist			



We have also received some questions regarding our uniform policy - specifically around skirts and shoes. We understand that mixed messages can often be sent - especially when some shops display items as 'schoolwear'. A letter was sent out during the summer term which clarifies our uniform expectations and this can be found by [clicking here](#). Students have also received a number of assemblies regarding uniform expectations and this can be seen by [clicking here](#).

Improving communication still needs to improve and we now have a Senior Leadership Team in place who oversee and manage key areas in our school. Colleagues listed below are responsible for particular areas in school and are also linked to subject areas. Although I endeavour to speak to each and every parent, my team also support me in ensuring issues are picked up to ensure they are timely.

- **Miss Dodds:** Deputy Headteacher for Teaching, Learning & Assessment
- **Mr Hinchliffe:** Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare
- **Miss Morgan:** Assistant Headteacher for Achievement & Standards
- **Mrs Roden:** Business Manager

I am excited to embark upon another academic year with new and experienced staff, an appropriate curriculum and clearer school systems to support our core business - learning. There has been significant changes made to this school over the past year and I absolutely believe we are finally now in a strong position to accelerate success. We are fully staffed with an array of talent across all levels and in all departments, both in the teaching and non-teaching sectors. Student behaviour and attitude has massively improved and is more consistent than in previous years and the environment has been updated to make the school a positive place to learn.

One of our unique selling points is our small size and family ethos and I have had the pleasure of holding one-to-one Headteacher meetings with all our year 11 students - wow, we have some talent! We are also planning to put arrangements in place for similar meetings with all year groups, building on our commitment to knowing each and every student very well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as we enter a new academic year and I look forward to further successes.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watkin  
Headteacher