

September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer break and are ready to entrust your children back to us, ready to learn and further develop as young people.

Last year was, yet again, a particularly successful one for the school and there were many highlights, ranging from outstanding individual academic results in August to sporting prowess in many activities to whole school performances of the highest standard - too many to mention individually.

The past 9 years since I became Head, have been all about a journey, moving towards achieving what we believe in many ways is already an outstanding school. We do not stand still and rest on our laurels; instead we push on with our ambitions. The Ofsted report of April was disappointing and we believe, as many of you contacted us to say, did not in any way reflect our school. However, we could sit back and have a moan and a sulk or respond as we have done. Swiftly and effectively! They highlighted areas of development that we were already working on, but simply not quickly enough. It is wonderful to see how our school develops each year. Everything we do is geared for the betterment of our brilliant students.

Partnerships are now an essential feature of school development due to the reduction in impact the Local Authority can have. One huge step for us was joining the West Yorkshire Teaching Alliance as a strategic partner, hosting the management group at our school. This is a partnership of approximately 50 schools who work together to share only the best of practice and it gives our staff and students opportunities which, if we were to work in isolation, may not be available. We have for this year started working on some aspects with Mirfield Free Grammar and their Headteacher is equally excited about how we can work together to develop both schools.

We are a school which is spreading its wings and is seen now as a place of true learning and as the Investors in People report from this year said "Newsome High is truly a fabulous place to work". Our student leadership, on seeing this quote added "Newsome High is truly a fabulous place to learn"

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