



Part of the Greater Manchester Learning Trust
BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED
Parrs Wood High School Wilmslow Road East Didsbury Manchester M20 5PG
tel: 0161 446 8640 email: admin@pwhs.co.uk **Headteacher: Mark McElwee**

22nd September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the new academic year at Parrs Wood High School. I hope you and your families all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

A special congratulations to all of those students who received their examination results, the year 11 and year 13 students of 2017 really rose to the challenge. We are very pleased that their efforts have been rewarded and they are moving on to follow their dreams. We are once again one of the best performing schools in Manchester. The majority of our year 11 students stayed in our Sixth Form and have been joined by students from all across Manchester. This has really strengthened our college community.

A warm welcome to our new year 7 students. They have made an amazing start and have joined our school community with a great enthusiasm. They already know their way around better than some of the staff.

We celebrated our academic, social and sporting success, at the Stockport Plaza in the company of students, staff, parents, Governors and our special guest speaker, Tony Walsh, the Manchester poet who helped unify the city after the recent atrocity. Tony enthralled us and inspired us with a real passion for the Arts and lifelong learning. The evening was a huge success, with stunning musical performances from our students.

A fond farewell to many staff including Mr Fenton, Ms Wilkinson and Ms Brereton. We've been joined by Mr Owen Executive Principal, Ms Parker, Mr McDonald and Ms Wicks and Ms Rahman in Science, Mr Ashton Head of Psychology and Ms Dance teacher in Social Sciences, Ms Hafeez teacher in Maths, Mr Grant Head of Computing, Ms Hardman Head of Geography and Mr Pierce teacher in Geography and Ms Cole in Languages.

Y6 Open Evening

The school will be holding its Y6 Open Evening on Tuesday 26th September, 6:00-8:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to speak to specialists members of staff and see what wonderful things are happening at Parrs Wood.

Calling all Year 7 parents

Active Parents Get Cooking is a weekly programme offering an opportunity for you to engage with your child's learning through cooking. The programme is designed to help the smooth transition through each key stage and develop working relationships between home and school to support your child's learning.

Sessions run every Thursday from 9.15am-10.30am by appointment with Jo Mannion, Family Liaison Officer. Please contact if you wish to book a place on 0161 445 8786 or 07977224943

Transition Coffee Mornings

Macmillan Coffee Morning-September 29th - 9.30am - 11am
Transition Support Coffee Morning- 6th October - 9.30am - 11am
Transition Support Coffee Morning- 13th October - 9.30am - 11am



Parenting Your Teen – All Year Groups

Parenting Your Teen- is a 5 week practical and friendly course for parents and carers of pre-teens and teenagers. The course is designed to help the transition from childhood to adolescence run as smoothly as possible for both the young person and the parent/carer.

It aims to prevent behavioural and emotional problems in young people by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents/carers.

If you are interested in attending please contact
Jo Mannion: 0161 445 8786 or 07977224943

HPV Vaccinations for year 8 and 9 Girls

HPV vaccinations for Year 8 and 9 girls are scheduled for 9th October, Year 8 Parents, please return consent forms asap.

Please can Year 8 parents return the consent form asap. Year 9 girls will receive the second dose. There will also be a catch-up for girls previously absent.

Scholastic Bookfair

Scholastic Bookfair is in school all week from the 26th to the 30th September. Students can browse and purchase books at lunchtime and after school in the main mall. Bookfair sales help to fund our library stock and form time literacy boxes.

Parrs Wood Trip & Visits 2017-18

Please note that students studying the subject will be prioritised for places on any subject specific trips. Students on the Pupil Premium register/in receipt of Free School Meals may benefit from some financial assistance. We also run other trips and visits that do not incur any cost to parents/carers.

Please contact the trip leader, ideally by email, for any further information.

YEAR 7

Subject/focus	Trip leader	Destination/event	Date	Cost
French	L. Etchells	Normandy	July	£350
Spanish	D. McVey	Madrid	July	£650
Transition English	R. Sheldrake	Theatre visit	December	TBC

YEAR 8

Subject/focus	Trip leader	Destination/event	Date	Cost
German	E. Garth	Cologne	May	£550
Geography	L. Cross	Spain	May	£470
Geography	A. Hardman	Formby	June	£10



YEAR 9

Subject/focus	Trip leader	Destination/event	Date	Cost
German	E. Garth	Cologne	May	£550
D of E Award	J.Wright	Buxton	TBC	£100-150
Geography	L. Cross	Spain	May	£470
English	S.Cullen	Poetry Live	TBC	£30 tbc

YEAR 10

Subject/focus	Trip leader	Destination/event	Date	Cost
Ancient History	D. Midgley	Rome	July	£650
Drama	M. King	Lowry Theatre	October	£17
Geography	L. Cross	Iceland	February	£880
Urdu	M. Hashmi	Cinema workshop	February	£10
Art/photography	J. Davison	London	November	£40 tbc
Food technology	S. Lyons	Stockley Farm	July	£13
Psychology	J. Ashton	Chester Zoo	July	£25
Personal development	E. Lampard	Ghyll Head	February	£90
MFL	S. White	Cinema & University visits	Various	£5-10
English	S. Cullen	Poetry Live	TBC	£30 tbc

YEAR 11

Subject/focus	Trip leader	Destination/event	Date	Cost
Ancient History	D. Midgley	Manchester Museum	October	£5
Geography	L.Cross	Iceland	February	£880
Geography	K. Patchwood	GCSE coursework	September	£7
Drama	M. King	Lowry Theatre	October	£17
Urdu	M. Hashmi	Cinema workshop	February	£10
Geography	A. Hardman	GCSE coursework	November	£8
MFL	S. White	Cinema & University visits	Various	£5-10



SIXTH FORM

Subject/focus	Trip leader	Destination/event	Date	Cost
Business	S.Ali	Revision conference	March	£25
D of E Award	J. Wright	Buxton	TBC	£100-150
Drama	M. King	Lowry Theatre	October	£17
Govt & Politics	P. Blackburn	California, USA	October	£950 tbc
Y12 Geography	K. Patchwood	Fieldwork, Wales	March	£350 tbc
Y12 Future choices/careers	J. Kunawicz	Oxford University	June	£30
Y13 Psychology	K. Green	London	March	£65
Y12 Psychology	K. Green	Conference	November	£27
Art/Photography	J. Davison	London	November	£40
MFL	S. White	Cinema & University visits	Various	£5-10
Y12 Media	S. Cullen	BBC Media City	June	TBC

In addition there will be rewards trips to the cinema at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms which will incur a small cost i.e. £5 or less.

Parrs Wood invited to be the flagship school of The Girls Network Programme

The Girls' Network is a charitable organisation that works with young women across the UK and aims to inspire and empower girls by matching them with an individual, professional female mentor who can support them during the academic year. The mentoring programme consists of a wide range of topics including revision, managing workload, exploring higher education and career options, CV writing, interview techniques and potential work experience.

During the summer term, 20 of our Year 10 girls were matched with 20 professional women for the 12 month mentoring programme. We hosted the first session in July and it was a great success! The girls were completely engaged for the hour and impressed their mentors with their enthusiasm and willingness to participate. All of the girls had prepared some resources and ideas to share and discuss with their mentor. This was a strong indication that the programme has been well received by the students. I'm sure this experience will be invaluable in supporting the girls through their GCSE year and will strengthen Parrs Wood links with the prestigious companies that have provided mentors including the BBC, Barclays, MMU, Lloyds, Pets at Home to name a few. Hayley from the Girls Network commented that of all the schools they visit, they've receive the best welcome from Parrs Wood! – a worthy testament to our students. Well Done girls! – We are looking forward to our forthcoming sessions on the first Tuesday of every month throughout Year 11.

Message for the Head of Learning for Year 7 – Mr Cooper

The year group as a whole have made a fantastic transition to secondary school. They are already leading the way in regards to attendance by achieving over 98%. Furthermore forms 7ESC, 7SBR, 7ZXH have already managed 100% so will be receiving a rewards breakfast. Furthermore each form has already gained over 150 reward points with a year group total reaching more than 2000! Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported the school by making sure the pupils are in the correct uniform (see pg 8 of pupil planner) and with all the necessary equipment (see pg 7 of the pupil

planer) for them to be 'ready to learn'. Can I also ask for planners to be checked for homework's being recorded with them being signed weekly below the pupil learning logs.

I would really like to use this opportunity to say a massive well done to all of those who took part in one of our two bonding days. It was great to see the pupils working together, encouraging each other and celebrating one another's achievements. I believe it really helped the pupils gain not just confidence for themselves but also a greater understanding of their peers as well as breaking the ice a little further to build positive relationships with the staff who took part. There are more opportunities to get involved in extracurricular clubs and teams throughout the year. These will be advertised in the Enrichment Fair on Friday 22nd September when pupils can sign up for those they are interested in.

Other upcoming important dates for you diaries include Tuesday 26th when the year 7s will have their photographs taken in the morning. That afternoon we will also be finishing at 2:15pm in order to get set up for the open evening for future cohorts. Many of the year 7s have already volunteered to help with this event. Finally I would encourage all parents and carers to take the opportunity to come and meet the form tutors on Thursday 12th October with appointments available between 4-6pm.

If a year 7 is late to school before 9am they will receive an automatic detention that day for 15minutes. If they arrive after 9am this will be increased to 30 mins. In each case if they choose not to attend the detention will be doubled the next day.

Message from the Head of Learning for Year 8 – Mr McLynn

Welcome back Year 8! It's been a great start by the students who have settled back in to the routines of school brilliantly. I have been into all of the form groups during the morning PDC sessions and into a lot of lessons and been very pleased with the focussed atmosphere of learning that I have encountered. The tutor team has changed slightly over the summer, with a number of new staff joining the team. 7JBM have become 8NXS and are now with Ms Sultana from Monday to Wednesday, and Ms Chowdhury on Thursday and Friday. 8LJR are now co-tutored by Ms Ritchie on Monday and Thursday, and Ms Traynor on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. 7IVK have been renamed 8AMC but are still with Mr McCusker. 7EKR are now 8AXM and are with Ms Millward, and 7MXJ are now 8RXP and are with Ms Parker. Can I remind you that your child's tutor is your first point of contact with the school and will be happy to work with you to resolve any issues that you may have. Please encourage your child to use their planner correctly in school and to check it each evening to ensure that they are approaching their independent work in an organised manner.

Message from the Head of Learning for Year 9 – Mr Heron

I would like to welcome back the Y9's who have settled well in to the new term. As I have been dropping in on lessons I have really noticed the mature attitude they have returned with. It is essential that this positive start to the new year continues through out as we move towards the 'option' process later in the year.

Form time is always busy at this time of year as we get set up for the coming year. One of the highlights of this is selecting the form representatives who will be meeting regularly with the student leadership team. What an exciting opportunity for these young people to help shape future of the school. Another exciting opportunity are the numeracy ninjas who will be working closely with Miss Jones.

Message from the Head of Learning for Year 10 – Ms Catterall

"I have been really impressed with the start our pupils have made to their GCSE courses. Year 10 is a BIG year. Towards the end of this academic year, students will sit their GCSE English Literature exam. It is therefore imperative that they adopt a positive attitude in all of their lessons, focus on their ability to work independently and develop a resilience to the challenges they may face. Soon, your child will receive an early set of progress screenings. This will give you a great idea of the start they have made to their GCSE courses, with their teachers commenting on their effort and behaviour in each subject. As always, it is important that you discuss this with your child and

should you have any concerns, please contact your child's subject teacher, or me, as their Head of Learning, if you have concerns regarding a number of subjects."

Message from Head of Learning for Year 11 – Ms Hawksley

Year 11 have returned to school this term with a very positive mind-set. This follows an amazing set of English Literature results and that show our year group are mature, motivated and putting in the required hard work. The attendance has been higher than last year, the behaviour is excellent and they are showing that they are role models we can be proud of. The Senior Student Leaders are now in place and have already carried out their duties at the Stockport Plaza with confidence, humour and passion for their school. We are immensely proud of all the pupils who went through the rigorous selection procedure to become part of our leadership team and we look forward to the new opportunities that the teams are planning to create progress for all pupils within Parrs Wood. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils; who have contributed to the strong start to year 11 and to wish the pupils well with their final year in the main school.

Message from the Head of Learning for Year 12 – Mr Blackburn

Firstly may I extend a warm welcome to all parents and carers of our new Year 12 students. I am very pleased that that we have started the year with such a great group of students; many of whom I have known for the past five years (in some cases, longer than that) and many who are completely new to Parrs Wood. The next two years will go by in the blink of an eye so all courses have started with a 'full-on' work ethic. This has come as a bit of a shock to the students as they have had a long summer break so we are giving them study skills support through tutor time. The Enrichment Programme for Year 12 will start next week and will run on Wednesday afternoons through until the Summer Term. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's tutor on our Tutor Evening on Thursday 5th October which runs from 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. I look forward to meeting you then. In the meantime please ask your son/daughter about 'Curious George' and the two words to improve their grades.

Message from the Head of Learning for Year 13 – Mr Crickett

I hope all parents and students have had a restful summer break. Obviously the main focus this term will be applications, either for University or for Apprenticeships. I hope all the students will make use of the Year 13 team, who have lots of experience around the application process. Some students will want to get their applications in early, and those students need to see Dr Kunawicz as soon as possible. Ms Brotherton has made some appointments for students to discuss their future career choices. I would encourage those students to check the appointments sheet and attend the interviews. Finally, can I remind the students of the necessity to attend assembly on a Monday, and PDC on a Tuesday and Thursday. This year the information the students get at those times will be essential, and attendance will be discussed on any references or applications.

Finally, the Sixth Form Open Morning will be held on Saturday 14th October, 10:00-12:00.

Yours sincerely



Mr McElwee
Head Teacher



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