



Standish Community High School

'Leading learning to be outstanding'

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Head Teacher: Mr A. Pollard BA (Hons) MA NPQH
When replying please ask for:

16th April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head of School at Standish Community High School. It is a privilege to have been appointed by the Mosaic Academy Board of Trustees and entrusted with the job of leading such a fantastic school.

Many of you will already know me; I have worked at Standish Community High School for seventeen years, starting as a Head of Department before moving into the Senior Leadership Team ten years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Standish and have an unwavering belief in all of our students. During this time I have played a significant part in determining the vision and direction of the school and I am looking forward to leading our outstanding work in the future. I am determined that the school builds on its legacy and continues to flourish and maintain its position at the heart of our community.

I am looking forward to working with the whole community as we strive for even greater outcomes for all our young people. By working together, we can ensure that all students enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attributes to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

At Standish Community High School we encourage all students to strive to be the best they can be. It is important that we are ambitious for all our students and I know that our students do respond positively to the rigour and challenge they encounter. Furthermore, your support as parents, to ensure that your child follows our code of conduct ensuring our extremely high expectations and standards, both academically and pastorally, at Standish Community High School are maintained.

Attendance

At Standish Community High School we believe that full attendance and excellent punctuality are vital in ensuring all students secure the best possible education and wider school experiences. With this in mind, as a school we have set a minimum attendance target of 96% for every individual student. If a student's attendance falls below this figure, we will endeavour to liaise with the student and parent/carers to address underlying issues and improve attendance at school.

Term time holidays and extended leave are not allowed and will not be authorised as stated in the Education Student Registration Regulations of 2016. The school will only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances that are not related to holidays. Parents/carers must write directly to the Head of School in good time (at least 6 weeks before) to request to take their child out of school during term time.

Start of the school day

Students are to enter the school site through the main entrance where members of the Senior Leadership Team will meet and greet students. This initial first contact is a very important part of showing that we care for and welcome all students to school. Students must arrive at their form room by 8.50am, otherwise they will be marked late. Students arriving late will have to enter the school building via the main reception. Parents will be notified if their child arrives late for school.

be Outstanding!

Uniform

We have high expectations of our students regarding their appearance; all of our students should be well presented and take pride in their appearance as part of our 'Be Outstanding' agenda. Information regarding uniform, jewellery and make-up can be found on the parents' section of the school website and I would encourage you to refer to this before making any purchases.

Equipment

All students are expected to attend school every day with the equipment they need to be successful. This includes their school planner, exercise books, homework, full set of stationery, reading book, PE kit and an appropriate bag large enough to carry everything needed for school. Sanctions will be imposed for students who arrive ill prepared for learning.

Smart Devices

From the point of entry to the school site until exiting the site, Smart devices should be switched off and kept out of sight at all times. Smart devices should not be used during lessons or while moving between lessons and should also remain switched off during break and lunch.

Head of School drop-in – summer term

In addition to the systems already in place for parents to communicate with the school, I will be introducing a termly drop-in for parents/carers where you will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns or issues that you would like me to investigate and address. The first of these meetings will be held on Friday 11th May, 9am – 10am. For organisational/catering purposes, could you please contact my PA, Joanne Preston, if you are intending to join us, either via email prestonj@standishchs.wigan.sch.uk or telephone on extension 315.

Finally, our Year 11's have been preparing tirelessly for their GCSEs, supported by a committed team of outstanding classroom practitioners and support staff, who have challenged and motivated students, encouraged and celebrated their successes, whilst building resilience to conquer those topics proving slightly more demanding. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Year 11 parents/carers who have fully supported the school and have demonstrated incredible positivity, empathy and patience in supporting their child during this crucial time. The whole of our school community wishes all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck as they prepare for their final weeks at Standish Community High School. We truly believe that each and every one of our students has the potential to achieve and be the best they can be.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. Please be assured that I am determined to do the very best for the students and staff at Standish Community High School and I look forward to us working together in the coming months.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Barker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L Barker
Head of School