

Dear Parent/Carer

As the term draws to a close, I wanted to firstly thank you on behalf of staff and governors for your support this year.

Despite the recent heat wave and spike in covid cases it has been fantastic to see the return of trips, camps, more music events and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Work experience for Year 10 and 12 was a long overdue welcome sight as it can have such a significant impact on students as they enter their last year of study. It was also lovely to see so many students receive letters of praise, earn nominations for our second Academy Awards and welcome over 120 winners and their families to collect their hand made trophies.

Plans for the start of the new academic year are already underway in what will hopefully be a much more normal experience for everyone. Friday 2nd September is an INSET day for staff. **Students return to school on Monday 5th September.** Students in year 7 should make their way to BHT and other year groups should go to their new form rooms. A reminder that in September the school day will begin at 8.20 am and end at 2.50 pm.

For those using buses, we have been asked to share with you that due to increases in operational costs, including fuel both Hiltons Travel (service 271) and MD Bus and Coach (Link Network) (PM only service 270) are increasing their fares for fare paying pupils to £2.00 per journey from the start of the new school year in September.

In September, all students will be expected to be in full uniform each day and no jewellery or piercings are allowed. We know many parents will be in the process of purchasing new uniform for September and a reminder of our uniform expectations is available on our website. Many shops often label shoes as 'school shoes' which do not comply with our uniform policy, shoes must be black flat shoes with no other colours or markings. They should be a polishable, smart, leather formal shoe. Your support in ensuring students are smartly dressed is greatly appreciated. **On days when students have PE they should bring their kit with them and will change in school.** Students do not need to bring PE kit on the first day as practical PE will not begin until 6th September after they have been provided with their timetables.

On a personal note, as I prepare to leave the Great Sankey family, I have been reflecting with pride on what we have achieved in three years. We have undertaken a revolution to improve the quality of education and student learning experience. We have always tried to lead with high expectations and compassion to bring the best out our young people regardless of the challenges they may encounter. Actions have included a two-fold increase of pastoral staff; introducing Thinking Reading, an external careers advisor and the ADHD foundation; doubling our mental health and well-being provision and appointing a dedicated non-teaching safe-guarding lead. The changes in teaching, learning, assessment and reading have been significant to ensure our children know more

and can remember more. Launching knowledge organisers, Classcharts and ready to learn, alongside the significant increase in provision of academic intervention and holiday sessions have been an integral part of this process.

All of these academic and pastoral ingredients have played a critical part on our journey.

Yet, it is the more granular and personal moments that I am most proud of. Seeing the pride in students as they receive half termly letters of congratulation for working hard; earn their first Scholars award; are nominated for an Academy or Community Award or volunteer to be a well-being ambassador is incredibly moving.

Your feedback during this time has been indispensable. From early anecdotal views to the use of Friday Five and our new monthly drop-ins, have helped shape what we have done and how we have responded.

After the vacuum created by the pandemic, it has been fantastic to see such a rapid return of fixtures, visits, clubs, trips and performances as these are the moments that will inspire our students for the future. I have always believed that learning beyond the classroom can have a huge impact, but we never know which moment will inspire or resonate with them later in their life. What we do know is that if we ensure children seize as many opportunities as they can something has more chance to stick & act as a catalyst and I am thankful that staff at Great Sankey, have embraced this approach so passionately once again.

Like all schools, as the summer term draws to a close we are planning for new staff to arrive and bid farewell to those moving on and this year is no exception. I would like to take a moment, therefore, to mention two members of staff in particular, who will be leaving the Great Sankey family: Firstly, Mrs Robertson, Head of Biology, and secondly Mrs Steele, Head of Year 9 with 20 and 16 years at Great Sankey respectively.

Finally, whatever your plans for the summer, I hope you all have an enjoyable break, so that in September, you all come back refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr Shannon
Headteacher