



October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As the October break fast approaches, Year 11 have just been introduced to GCSEPod, an online revision tool, an App that the school has recently invested in. Evidence shows that consistent usage alongside attendance above 95% and a positive attitude to learning improves GCSE grades. Targeted Year 11 students have also been catching up on missing coursework on our last two days.

Meanwhile Year 10, following the excellently attended 'steps for success' parents session, have been working with the headship team to select their aspirational GCSE target grades and will get their GCSEpod introduction after half term.

Year 7 and 8 have had a training session on how to use their new Knowledge Organisers effectively. I am also delighted to announce that following our successful application, all children in Year 7 will complete the John Muir Award. The British John Muir was a pioneer of environmental protection and the forefather of national parks around the world. His work on conservation in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century was an inspiration and with concern growing, particularly from children, about protecting the environment it was too good an opportunity to refuse.

Open Evening was a fantastic show case of what an amazing school this is. Nearly five hundred families had tours of the school and participated in an array of subject activities and challenges. Over 300 students from Great Sankey supported the evening being guides and helpers and they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school.

In my recent meetings with governors they shared that they are in the process of creating their parent voice group with the first area of discussion being uniform concerns. This is planned to take place next half term and dates, times and invitations will be sent in due course.

Following a review of our pastoral structure, conducted by Mr Wright and myself, we are in the process of significantly enhancing the House support teams. Each head of house will now be supported by a deputy head of house and a dedicated house officer. This is in addition to each year group having a dedicated member of SLT attached to them. These changes will be implemented in the coming months.



Finally I wanted to take the opportunity to thank staff, students and parents for making me feel so welcome in my first seven weeks in post. Everyone's passion and determination to move this great school forward is palpable.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Shannon'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr J Shannon

Headteacher