



Our Ref: KWA/MBE

13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for all your support during the first two weeks of the new school year, it has been a great start, and it has been wonderful to see our students again and hear about their summer break. All our students have settled into their new classes well, and learning in school feels very purposeful.

I know that Dinnington High School underwent lots of changes last academic year and they haven't all been easy to navigate, but I was pleased to see some green shoots in our outcomes during the summer. At A level, we had the second highest percentage of A* and A grades and were the most improved school at all measures in Rotherham.

At GCSE, we saw a good improvement in our progress score and average grade and we were the most improved school in Rotherham in the grade 4+ in English and Maths measure. I am confident that these improvements will be built on further this year and beyond.

This year, our focus in school is to make students **work hard** and **think hard** every day. At Dinnington High School we have the best students in Rotherham, our job this year is to make them the hardest working. If we do this, they will be unbeatable! To support this, we have made some changes to our teaching and learning that I want to share with you.

Subject Curriculum: Each department has reviewed and made changes to their curriculum this year and over the next two weeks, you will be able to see the overviews for the academic year on our website for all subjects, along with a short explanation about why we teach what we teach. I will write to you and let you know when these are live.

Engagement in Learning: We are currently teaching our students in lessons and tutor time how to demonstrate excellent learning habits. This will be a big focus this half term to make sure that all students understand how to be fully engaged in their learning. We are awarding **merits** in lessons when students demonstrate these behaviours and you will be able to track these on Class Charts. Next week, all students will receive their own copy of our Engagement in Learning descriptors, and I encourage you to look through these with your child and talk to them about why they are receiving merits.

Hardest Worker in the Room: Every lesson, teachers will be awarding the hardest worker in the room to recognise the students who are embodying excellent engagement in learning and excellent work. They will be rewarded with a postcard and 5 merits. Please congratulate your child if they receive these.

Core Questions and Key Vocabulary: Students will bring home a booklet on Monday that will contain key vocabulary for each subject and core questions that they will learn the answer to this term. The booklets have instructions about how they can be used in the front and teachers will set this for ILT too. **These should be brought into school every day.** This is a great way that you can get involved in supporting your child's learning by quizzing them on the core questions and testing their ability to define and spell the key vocabulary. These booklets will also provide a good resource for students to revise for their subject assessments.

ILT (homework): Students have been given a planner this week to help them organise their time and track their ILT. Teachers will be setting ILT on Class Charts and directing students to write the ILT and due date in their planners. At home can you encourage your child to look at their planner daily, to regularly support them to complete their ILT. We know students can be forgetful so teachers will put ILT on Class Charts too so you can check for yourself. We have an ILT Club every Monday to Thursday from 2.45pm to 3.45pm in N110 so your child can have a quiet space to complete their ILTs with the support of our staff, if they would prefer to do this in school.

This year, I look forward to sharing with you more about student learning and progress and involving you in the teaching and learning that is happening in school.

Again, I want to thank you for your continued support. The start to the year has been great and I am genuinely looking forward to seeing your child progress this year

Yours sincerely



Kerry Wade
Headteacher