



# John Spence

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a great start to the term this week with students returning full of enthusiasm and energy for the new academic year, well most of them have anyway! I have been extremely impressed with all year groups, but Year 11 in particular have already shown a determination to focus and achieve their very best in the coming year.

I am pleased to report that the departing Year 11 achieved the best results that we have seen for many years. Undoubtedly, this is down to their hard work and commitment, but it also reflects the changes that we have made to the school in the last couple of years in terms of curriculum, the quality of teaching and behaviour, which have combined to help the students to achieve these outcomes. We are confident that these improvements will continue in 2024 for our new Year 11.

At the other end of the age range, Year 7 have already started to settle into routines, which is great to see and any early nerves are starting to ease. It is always a big change, but very quickly John Spence will very much become their school as they become part of our community. If you do have any concerns regarding your child in year 7 then please do contact the Head of Year, Mr Betts, who will be more than happy to talk to you.

I have enjoyed seeing all the students again this year and in assembly I have been focusing on what the year means for them:

- Year 7 is a time of new beginnings
- Year 8 is a time for consolidation
- Year 9 is a time for preparation
- Year 10 is a time for responsibility
- Year 11 is a time to focus

These themes reflect the journey for students throughout their time with us and will underpin the skills that we teach them as each year progresses so that they leave us being resilient, skilled and considerate individuals who are Fit for Life.

To help the students achieve this we will continue to communicate regularly and ensure there are opportunities not just to find out about how your child is doing, but also about what they are doing. The first of these opportunities will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September where parents of Year 10 students are invited into school to hear about how we will support students through their GCSE journey.

I have been extremely impressed with uniform this week, so thank you for supporting us with this. As mentioned throughout last year, we do have pre-loved uniform for sale through our PTA led by Lori

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McDine or we can provide limited financial assistance if necessary. Please contact the school office and ask for Lori for pre-loved uniform or for your child's Head of Year if you would like to discuss any further support.

As usual, we have many opportunities planned for students starting with our Pledge Day later this month, more details will follow next week. Our extra-curricular clubs are already up and running for Year 7 and will be in place for all year groups from next week, and finally the Sports and Performing Arts academies will start again in the coming weeks. So, lots of opportunities for students to get involved in, details can be found on our website.

Finally, an academisation update. For those of you who had children here last year, you will know that we consulted on converting to an academy in order to join the PELE Trust in February 2023. The outcome of the consultation was to proceed with the plan and I am now delighted to be able to confirm that we will be joining Pele on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. It is an exciting next step in the history of the school and we know that it will lead to improvements in what we can provide for our community. More details will follow in my updates in the coming weeks, but there is no need to worry as the only real change that you or the students will see is that our lanyards will be a different colour!

As ever, one of the most important things is that we stay connected with parents, so please do call if you have any queries or concerns. My updates will return to give an overview of what is happening in school, but in the meantime do not forget that our website has all the information you may need about the school as well as the regular updates on Twitter @JohnSpenceCHS informing you of all the amazing things that are happening.

Best wishes



Jonathan Heath  
Headteacher