



Pleckgate High School
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18th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we near the end of another successful academic year, it seems a great time to reflect and celebrate some of the many achievements of our fantastic pupils. We have had notable success in English, with published poets from Year 7 in a book entitled: 'Empowered: Rhymes of Fire'. The poems ranged from themes on feminism and racism to everyday worries. Our pupils are also amongst the best attenders at the 'Oxpire' Reading Club and have been awarded books and certificates. A particular mention should also go to some of our brightest mathematicians in year 8 and 10 who competed in regional and national maths competitions, establishing themselves as some of the best young mathematicians in the country.

The focus this year has been firmly on academic recovery after the pandemic, and we will continue to provide any additional support pupils need. Year 11 pupils have successfully completed their examination series, and we wish them all the best for results day in August. However, it is not just academic success that we have focussed on, we have worked hard to support pupils with a wide range of extracurricular activities including The Duke of Edinburgh award, visits to the theatre, sporting activities and visits, a range of rewards trips. We have also encouraged pupils to develop leadership responsibility including as reading and maths mentors, prefects and leaders of the Pupil Council.

As we prepare for the last week in school, it is particularly important that parents are aware there is a **heatwave** forecast for early next week, and as a result, we are **advising the following measures**:

- For the duration of next week, pupils will **not be required to wear their jumper, blazer or tie**.
- Pupils are allowed to wear a **hat** whilst outside the building to protect themselves from the sun.
- All pupils should ensure they apply **sunscreen** before coming to school and have sun cream with them should they need to reapply throughout the day.
- All pupils can bring their own **water bottle** so they can access free water throughout the day from our fountains in school.

In addition, due to the hot weather, all pupils have received information via their Year group Google Classroom about the obvious dangers of swimming in open water. This information is particularly pertinent given the tragic incident where a young boy lost his life in a quarry close to Wigan last weekend. Further information about the dangers can be found on the following links:

- [RNLI](#)
- [United Utilities](#)
- [Float to Live](#)

I am writing to you for the last time as Headteacher of Pleckgate High School. As I am sure you are now aware, from September 2022, I will be taking up the position of Director of Secondary Education at The Education Partnership Trust, of which Pleckgate is a member school. In this role, I will continue to work with Pleckgate and the other secondary schools within the Trust to continue to support the delivery of the best possible education for all our young people.

I took up the post as Headteacher of Pleckgate in January 2016, and I have been incredibly proud to serve this community and lead such a talented team of pupils and staff. The school is in a stronger position than ever, and this is down to everybody's hard work, commitment and support. Over the past twelve months, I have worked closely with Mrs McGinty and the new senior leadership team to ensure a smooth transition as possible, ready to hit the ground running in September. We are also excited to welcome back Mr McKenzie as Deputy Headteacher and welcome Ms Kaye, our new assistant Headteacher who will be joining the school in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been involved with the success of the school over my tenure. Quite simply, we could not have achieved what we have without everybody coming together and pulling in the same direction for the benefit of our young people. Pleckgate will always hold a special place in my heart, and truth be told, was a key factor in my decision to continue working with the Trust. I will be a regular visitor to Pleckgate and will continue to work as hard as I can with staff and pupils to ensure the school goes from strength to strength.

Looking forward to September, we will be welcoming all students back to school on **Friday 2nd September**, with our new Year 7 students starting at 8:20am followed by **all other year groups at 11.00am**.

Wishing you a restful summer break, and I look forward to our continued journey together.

Yours sincerely



Mark Cocker

Date	Event	Points to note
w/c Monday 18 th July	Achievement Assemblies	All year groups involved
Monday 18 th July	Year 8 & 10 Sports Day (subject to weather conditions)	Students involved to bring PE kit, hat and sunscreen
Tuesday 19 th July	Year 7 & 9 Sports Day (subject to weather conditions)	Students involved to bring PE kit, hat and sunscreen
Thursday 20 th July	School Closes	School will close at 12:10pm for all students