

## **CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL**

## A CHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

My Ref: IT/CAG Your Ref: Date: October 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

We have had an impressive first half term and we are all looking forward to the remainder of this academic year. I would like to thank all parents who have supported the school by ensuring that their child has returned to school ready to work hard and be the best they can be. There have already been a significant number of highlights in the first half term: Harvest Festival where our Year 7s and 8s supported our local Food Bank, numerous sporting fixtures, our Year 7 choir, Open Evening and all of our Year 11 having mock interviews with a range of external providers, are just a few examples of how our students have demonstrated the Team CCHS approach this academic year. Equally as pleasing is the complete focus from students in lessons in combining effort, hard work and dedication to being the best in everything they do. They have embraced the knowledge driven curriculum and lessons are focused and filled with young people keen to learn and develop their knowledge and skills.

Cannock Chase High School is delighted with the successes of its students in 2019 and is pleased that this has been reflected in the DfE Performance Tables that places CCHS as the highest achieving school in Cannock and Rugeley for pupil progress. This is an external verification that our school is continuing to move in the right direction in all that we do. I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved together over the last five years and want to take this opportunity to thank all members of Team CCHS, students, parents and staff for your support in our shared goal of improving the life chances of our young people.

This is confirmation that we are taking our school in the right direction, we are giving our students the best chance of success in their lives, and it is a time to be proud of all our achievements to date. Enjoy the moment and let us be positive and optimistic that we can continue to take our school and our young people even further forward.

The start of the new academic year is always an exciting time as, not only do we see the new Year 7 students quickly settling into life as part of Team CCHS, we also have the opportunity to welcome parents/guardians of prospective students touring our school as part of Open Mornings. Over the past five years, our student numbers have significantly increased as the school's reputation and standards have improved. We will continue to welcome any families who wish to see the school operating live. Please do encourage friends to make contact with the school to make an appointment. For us, every day is an open day.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm to you our back to basics approach to education, which is based on mutual respect, standards of uniform, attendance and the academic attainment and progress of students. We have the highest expectations of our students and want to involve all parents and stakeholders to continue to create a real team where everyone plays their part in our success. We want our school to continue to develop

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into a place where all members of the school community, students, parents and staff, all talk of 'our' achievement and everyone is focused on improving both our collective best and individual best.

One area on which we need to continue to focus is attendance, and this is one of the single biggest blocks to achievement for our students. Whether absence is due to illness, term-time holidays or other condoned absences, not being at school disadvantages our children. In 2019, the GCSE results of our Year 11 students were clear evidence of this. Students who had an end of year attendance of 95% or above made academic progress that was above that of the national average, significantly out performing those with an attendance of below 95%. Setting good patterns of attendance is vital and we are seeking parental support in ensuring this. An attendance rate of 90% may sound impressive, but it actually means that a student only attends school for 4.5 days out of every 5. This, over a five year education, equates to a child missing out on half a year of their education.

All of our improvements at Cannock Chase High School are so that we can achieve our vision, that our school is a vibrant and ambitious learning community with a relentless focus on the highest standards of academic achievement, personal development and equality of opportunity. We achieve this vision through the operation of routines and procedures, an unwavering focus on results, and by offering the very best teaching and support. Students learn, behave and are well mannered. Teachers teach with skill and rigour, showing courtesy. Staff and students enjoy what they do together. Underpinning everything we do at Cannock Chase High School are our values that we expect all members of our community to demonstrate in all they do:

**Integrity**: Doing the right thing, all the time and respecting each other.

*Teamwork*: Working together to improve our collective best, as well as our individual best.

**Responsibility**: Taking responsibility for our actions. **Excellence**: Being the best we can be in all we do.

**Resilience**: Overcoming challenges, remaining focused and working hard.

Finally, now is the time for our young people to take control of their destiny, to believe in themselves, to be prepared and not leave their success to chance. If there is anything we can do to support them and you during this academic year, please get in touch with us. Enjoy your Half Term.

Yours sincerely

Mr I Turnbull Headteacher