

I am incredibly proud to be the headteacher at Shuttleworth, in fact it is without doubt my proudest life achievement so far and illustrated by the fact I am now on my 9th year here! I continue to be amazed by the commitment, pride and passion shown by staff and students alike. The positive atmosphere makes it such a lovely place to be. Something which is regularly commented on by visitors and parents alike. I hope this comes across to you all as you go around the school this evening.

I have to say that the passion and pride the staff and students have in what they do and the school as a whole is a real inspiration. I can say honestly, we give each and every student the support, both academically and pastorally, to succeed. This culture is what I believe makes Shuttleworth a unique place to study and work.

Recent years have tested the resilience and strength of character of us all, haven't they. The past two years or so have had an impact on our lives which we are all still coming to terms with. You will see on the news and online how our young peoples mental health, engagement with school and overall wellbeing have been quite severely impacted by the pandemic. As a school we have had to evolve and adapt to the legacy of covid and ensure our young people have the support and opportunities they need to move forward in a positive and productive way after such challenging times. We have put more resources than ever in to our pastoral teams, our attendance teams, counsellors, transition and teaching teams.

We can already see how effective these additional resources are in terms of how the current year 7 have transitioned and settled so positively in to life in high school. They have exemplary attendance, contrary to national trends, with all but 3 or 4 of the 214 young people in school every day. Behaviour too is exemplary and disruption to learning is rare. The year 7s have thrown themselves in to our clubs, sports and activities with gusto. We have used our baseline tests to ensure any gaps in learning are quickly identified and support put in place where needed.

We will continue with the same support structures and transition arrangements for the young people joining us next year as to enable students to feel they really have achieved their very best at the end of year 11, we need the work to start in year 6. We have an extremely thorough transition team, who leave no stone left unturned. They ensure they get as much information from our primary schools as they can. We set up our teaching groups with that information in mind. We assess reading, writing and other key skills across the curriculum as students join us. Teachers then adapt their teaching in light of these baseline assessments. We do not pigeonhole children based on primary school information, we use it carefully to plan for any support that might be needed or any conversations we might need to have with you as parents before your child starts.

Students are invited in for a transition day and parent information evening, and for a week's summer school at the start of the summer holiday. Once you have a place confirmed with us at the beginning of March you will receive regular contact and updates right through to September.

The success in the classroom is as a result of the sheer hard work and relentless drive of our teachers and students. If you do choose Shuttleworth please do so on the understanding that you will give your best in school every day right from year 7 and the staff will respond in kind. We want you to leave Shuttleworth knowing you've given your best and you can be truly proud of your achievements, no regrets. We work with our young people and families to ensure they can achieve their absolute personal best and guide them in setting up a whole of exciting options for themselves once they leave us. I believe one of the most empowering things we can do for our young people is to make sure they have choices and options for their next stages in life.

I have spoken year after year about how daunting the decision of which high school to choose can be for many families, and remote

open evenings will only add to this. As Burnley schools are now all oversubscribed, first choices become all the more key. We are now full as a school. We offered 215 places this summer and all but a handful were to first choice applicants. Our admission number for next year stands at 200 so demand will be tight. Please contact us via the email transition@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk if you would like to discuss admissions or need any help. Details are on our website. Please note the deadline for applications is 31st October. You won't then hear anything until the 1st March, when the allocations are released.

With this in mind I feel it is vitally important to give you some very clear, unequivocal messages about who we are and are not as school. We are a community school, first and foremost. We pride ourselves on striving to meet the needs of all types of young people, whatever their background, who may or may not have had positive school experiences in the past.

A huge benefit of our growth has been the recruitment opportunities it has given us and the ability to have subject specialists across all subjects, large and small. Our curriculum puts literacy and numeracy at its heart. All our young people study mathematics and English throughout their time here alongside a core offer of science, history, geography, RE, Spanish, French, computing, PE, art and music. Students then get to experience expert provision in a whole range of creative and technical subjects. We also recognise how vital it is our young people have the widest possible range of life skills and real-world experiences throughout their time at high school. This is where our award-winning careers programme and our school enrichment programme come into their own. Right from year 7 onwards students take part in a whole host of activities such as university visits, employer visits, careers fairs, Duke of E, speakers, productions. You will hear more about this as you go around this evening and speak to staff about our curriculum and enrichment offer.

Alongside our highly skilled teachers we are very fortunate to have a whole team of student support staff, which I alluded to earlier. We have non-teaching Heads of Year for each year group who are there for your children throughout their time here. We have attendance staff, inclusion officers, a school nurse, and emotional support through our nurture and counselling. Furthermore, your child will have regular sessions on well-being, health and other key topics throughout the academic year as part of our BLOOM programme in form time. I know children and families have found this network of support invaluable when challenges outside of school have impacted on our young people's mental and physical health.

I make no apologies for having extremely high expectations of all staff and students here at the College - it is our moral duty to ensure students get the most out of the five years both academically and personally. This means we are very strict around uniform, behaviour and homework and staff plan and assess carefully to meet the needs of all students. However, we understand teaching is only truly effective if we work with the whole child particularly on developing aspiration, independence, and of course a love of learning. Our motto, *Think big, chase dreams, succeed together* encapsulates this belief. Staff and students alike are expected to lead by example by demonstrating our values of achievement, resilience, perseverance, community and pride in all they do.

Finally, it is my firm belief and that of all the staff here that high school must challenge all young people – whatever their ability. It must enrich their lives and it must truly equip them to be successful in whatever field of work or study life takes them to. Our commitment to this begins the first time your child walks through our door and continues until July 2028. I look forward to bringing many of you into this community over this year as part of the class of 2028!