

Good evening everyone and a really warm welcome to you all. It is always such a pleasure to open our doors to our community and share our school with you all.

Those of you who have had several children go through our school whilst I have been here will be very familiar with what drives me to stay here and how much I value this school. When I started here in 2014, I could never have imagined how this school would become such a fundamental part of my life and would mean so much to me over such a long time. We hear so much in the media, and from our friends and families, about how difficult it is to work in education at this time; there is no doubt that this is true. I have such respect for the staff here who keep striving for the very best for our young people in the most challenging of circumstances and with so many demands being made of them. What keeps me here year after year is the commitment, passion and pride shown by staff and our students alike day after day. The care and support shown to students and the way students are so kind and engaged in return is what really drives me and the rest of the team to keep going, in spite of the bigger issues around our profession.

We also rely heavily on your support and backing as parents, and we work alongside you to get the best for your child, whatever their background or needs.

The positive atmosphere makes Shuttleworth such a lovely place to be and is commented upon by almost everyone who comes into our school. Without exception all visitors comment about the lovely atmosphere and positive work going on here.

To illustrate this point, we have been lucky enough to recruit some very experienced teachers and support staff into different areas of the school over the past year. Where staff join us having worked in different schools across Lancashire or Greater Manchester, they all comment about the friendliness of the staff and how hard working and well-behaved the students are.

We absolutely do not work on gimmicks, quick fixes and headline grabbing actions. I am on year 11 and this will always be a work in progress. We work hard day by day, month by month, to keep evolving and improving the school. The staff follow the same mantra, with so many now being long-serving and knowing the students and school well. They always take on the next challenge with vigour and positivity. We grow our own middle and senior leaders and encourage all staff to take part in high quality development and training.

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 that 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? You will see on the news and online how our young peoples' mental health, engagement with school and overall well-being have been quite severely impacted by the way society has evolved. As a school, we have also had to evolve and adapt to these new realities and ensure our young people have the support and opportunities they need to move forward in a positive and productive way. We have put more resources than ever in to our pastoral teams, our attendance teams, counsellors, transition and of course 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. Behaviour too is exemplary and disruption to learning is rare. The year 7s have thrown themselves in to Shuttleworth life with gusto and have started getting involved with our enrichment programme which launched last week.

We will continue with the same support structures and transition arrangements for the young people joining us next September. 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 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 pigeon hole 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. We set students using SATs and reading data and adjust this over time, based on the progress children make. Groupings are different for maths/ science sets and literacy-based subjects, as students can have differing strengths. Students are taught in mixed attainment groups for practical subjects.

In advance of starting, students are invited in for a transition day in July and we host a parent information evening that day. Once you have a place confirmed with us at the beginning of March you will receive regular contact and updates right through to September.

Students who will require some additional support as they transition to high school will be invited in in the summer term to help ease any worries.

The success in the classroom is as a result of the sheer hard work and relentless drive of our teachers and students. Year 6, if you do choose Shuttleworth, please do so on the understanding that you will give your best in school every day right from day one 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 with 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 range 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.

One of the achievements we are most proud of here at Shuttleworth is the loyalty of our staff and, therefore, the experience and skills of our subject specialist teams. We are very fortunate to have over a dozen specialist staff in each of maths, English and science alongside a talented team of specialist Spanish and French teachers, music teachers, historians, geographers, computing and creative arts staff. We have specialisms covered across all subject areas in school and are able to offer an ever-widening range of subjects at GCSE.

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, after school clubs, speakers and school productions. Alongside this ,we offer a wide range of residential trips across the 5 years; we have a year 7 camp and regular trips to places such as London, Edinburgh, Barcelona, Madrid and Eurodisney. 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 and safeguarding officers, a librarian, 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 form time programme. 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 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 2030.