



New Mills School

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Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share some of the many successes we've seen across the school since September. It's been a wonderful start to the academic year, full of energy, ambition, and community spirit — a real demonstration of our school values: **Think Big, Do the Right Thing, and Team Spirit.**

Year 7

It's been a pleasure to see our new Year 7 students settle into life at New Mills School with such enthusiasm and confidence. They have quickly become an important part of our community, forming new friendships and embracing every opportunity. As I write, more than 100 students are taking part in the Gulliver's World residential, which is a brilliant way to round off their first half term. The Year 7 Tutor Evening was also a fantastic opportunity to meet so many of our families in person. We're proud of how our newest students have embodied #TeamSpirit, both in lessons and through extra-curricular activities - including some excellent performances on the football field!

Year 8

Our Year 8 students have made a strong start to their second year at New Mills. They've adapted well to their new groupings and teachers and have been brilliant role models for the younger year group. It's been especially heartening to hear stories of Year 8s supporting Year 7s - a true reflection of #TeamSpirit and #DoTheRightThing in action. The Halloween disco for Years 7 and 8 was also very well attended and added a fun, festive end to the term.

Year 9

Year 9 have returned to school with great enthusiasm, settling quickly into their new timetables and classes. Congratulations to 9DRY for achieving the best attendance this half term and to 9KLI for earning the highest behaviour ratio - both excellent achievements that reflect commitment and maturity. A special mention also goes to Katherine Bennett and Jess Morgan, who proudly represented New Mills School in the Year 11 netball team. Well done to everyone in Year 9 for such a positive start!

Year 10

Our Year 10 students have shown real maturity as they begin their GCSE journey. They've approached their studies with focus and determination, and it's been impressive to see how confidently they've settled into their option subjects. Congratulations to 10PHZ for achieving the best attendance this

half term, and to 10RLE for their excellent behaviour record. The commitment across the year group shows that they are ready to Think Big and make the most of every opportunity.

Year 11

It's been a fantastic start for our Year 11 students, who are demonstrating real drive and purpose in their final year at NMS. They have taken full advantage of college visits and guidance events to explore their next steps, and they represented the school superbly at our Open Evening, showing maturity and pride in their school community. Their participation in both morning and Period 6 interventions has been excellent - a great example of Thinking Big and taking ownership of their learning. On the sports front, our netball team performed brilliantly in the High Peak competition, and football practice has seen strong commitment.

We wish Year 11 a restful break - but remind them to balance rest with revision, as the **written mock exams begin on Monday 3rd November**. Thank you to parents who were able to join us for an informative Year 11 information evening earlier this week.

Open Evening and Community Spirit

Our Open Evening was a huge success, and it was heart-warming to see so many prospective families visiting the school. Our students were exceptional ambassadors - confident, welcoming, and clearly proud of their school. They truly embodied #DoTheRightThing and #TeamSpirit in representing all that New Mills stands for.

Facilities Enhancements

We continue to invest in improving our school environment to support excellence in teaching and learning. Recently, we have:

- Opened a state-of-the-art new toilet block with 19 new facilities for students.
- Upgraded our Design and Technology equipment, introducing a laser cutter and new lathes, enhancing both KS3 and KS4 learning.
- Improved the pavilion facilities, with new football nets and planned work on the all-weather areas to support PE and community use.

These developments are part of our ongoing commitment to creating an inspiring and supportive environment for every learner.

Our New Website

Finally, we are delighted to share that our new school website is now live. [New Mills School - Discover The Difference](#) It has been designed to make information clearer and more accessible for parents, students, and our wider community. Please have a look and we would love to hear your thoughts as we continue to refine and improve it. Please share any feedback by emailing us at enquiries@newmillsschool.co.uk.

We return after the break on **Week 2 of the timetable**, and I know our students will continue their fantastic start. Thank you, as always, for your support — it makes a real difference.

I wish all our students and families a happy, safe, and restful half term.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Heather Watts', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Heather Watts
Headteacher

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