



New Mills School

Church Lane
New Mills
High Peak
Derbyshire
SK22 4NR

Headteacher:
Mrs H Watts

Tel: 01663 743284
email: head@newmillsschool.co.uk
web: www.newmillsschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first full week of the new school year, I wanted to write to say what a genuinely positive start it has been at New Mills School.

A particular welcome goes to our new Year 7 students. Starting secondary school is a big step, but they have settled remarkably quickly and have already impressed us with their confidence, enthusiasm and readiness to get involved in school life. Across all five year groups, students have returned looking smart, ready to learn and with a real sense of purpose. It has been lovely to have the school full of students again.

In assemblies this week, I have spoken to students about our simple mantra for the year ahead:

Be here. Learn well. Belong.

Be here means being in school every day, arriving on time and being ready to learn – *Do the Right Thing*. **Learn well** means working hard, responding to feedback and having the ambition to keep getting better – *Think Big*. And **Belong** means being known, getting involved and making a positive difference to our school and wider community – *Team Spirit*. These three simple messages will underpin much of our work this year.

We have also welcomed a number of new colleagues this term, including a new School Business Manager and new teachers in Science, Art and Geography, alongside a new Head of PE, Health and Fitness. We have also made a number of internal appointments which strengthen our work around careers, community engagement, aspirations, digital development and staff wellbeing.

Students will also have noticed a number of improvements around the site. Over the summer we have completed work including changes to the PE changing rooms, improvements to the back steps towards the Leisure Centre, and new external clocks. The clocks in particular support one of our priorities this year: **punctuality**. We want students moving promptly to lessons, walking with purpose, and making every minute of learning count. Alongside this, we will continue to maintain high expectations around uniform, behaviour, presentation of work and care for our school environment. The standards we set in the small things help create the culture in which students can achieve the big things.

We also begin the year following some excellent GCSE results this summer, including excellent attainment in several subjects and notably in our core subjects English, Maths and Science. We are incredibly proud of what our students achieved, and it gives us plenty to build on this year.

Thank you, as ever, for your support in helping us to establish such a strong start. There is lots to look forward to this year and, after this first week, I am excited about what we can achieve together.

Be here. Learn well. Belong.

Think Big. Do the Right Thing. Team Spirit.

Warm regards,

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

Heather Watts

Headteacher