



New Mills School

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Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our students in Years 8 to 11 and to greet our new Year 7s and their families for the first time. The start of term has been incredibly positive, with students across the school demonstrating our core values of **Think Big, Do the Right Thing, and Team Spirit** every day.

We were please to celebrate the outcomes of the Class of 2025 over the summer – not just in terms of results, but in seeing so many of them heading confidently to their next steps at college and beyond.

Each year group has impressed us in different ways:

- **Year 7** have made an exceptional start to their secondary school journey. They have adapted quickly and maturely to our systems and routines, including demonstrating excellent conduct during busy times such as lunchtime. It has been particularly pleasing to see many of them forming new friendships and joining extra-curricular activities and therefore contributing positively to the school community so early in the year. We look forward to welcoming parents to the Gulliver's World information event at 6pm on Monday, October 6th and welcoming all parents to the Year 7 Form Tutor Evening on Thursday, October 9th – more information to follow about this event.
- **Year 8** are demonstrating a growing maturity and a strong sense of responsibility. They are setting an excellent example for our new students through their conduct, attitude to learning, and the way they embody our school values – exactly the kind of role models we hope they would become.
- **Year 9** have made a strong start to the year. We are encouraging them to work hard to “earn the right” to choose their options later this year and to keep their doors of opportunity wide open.
- **Year 10** have embraced their new option subjects with maturity and energy – a great foundation for their GCSE studies.
- **Year 11** have returned with their best attitude yet. Many are already attending our after-school Period 6 interventions and showing the commitment needed for success this summer.

It was wonderful to see our Year 11 head students, Emma and Rina, carry out their first formal duty by speaking confidently to Year 7 in their welcome assembly. Our student council is also now

up and running, with a representative from every form group committed to making a difference across the school.

One key ingredient in making all of this progress possible is, of course, turning up to school and arriving on time every day. The link between attendance and learning is absolutely nailed on, and we thank you for your support in making this a priority.

Behind the scenes, work is well underway on our new, informative school website, which we are excited to launch shortly. This will make it easier for parents and carers to access key information and celebrate the many great things happening across our school community.

We are also excited to share that our new state-of-the-art toilet block is almost ready for its big reveal – an investment that we know will make a real difference for our students.

Finally, a reminder that **Thursday 2 October 2025** is our Open Evening for Year 5 and 6 pupils and parents/carers. School will finish early on this day for students at 1pm, and we are grateful for students who are able to help showcase our school to prospective families.

Thank you, as always, for your support. Together, we can make this another excellent year for every student.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Heather Watts', written in a cursive style.

Heather Watts
Headteacher