



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

23 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Class of 2027 – Leavers' Hoodies, Prom and Year 11 Celebrations

Year 11 is an exciting and memorable time, with plenty for our students to look forward to, including leavers' hoodies, our Christmas rewards trip and, of course, the Year 11 Prom. We also recognise that this can be an expensive time for families, so we want to share our plans and expectations well in advance. We want every student to enjoy these celebrations. However, **the privilege of wearing a leavers' hoodie in school and attending Prom will be linked to punctuality to school and lessons.** Our aim is simple: to encourage every student to make the most of their remaining time at New Mills School and achieve the best possible GCSE results.

Why are we doing this?

Unfortunately, a small number of Year 11 students continue to arrive late to lessons despite repeated reminders and interventions from pastoral and senior staff. Detentions and other sanctions have not secured the improvement we need. When students arrive late, they miss valuable learning themselves, but they also interrupt the learning of others. Teachers must stop teaching, address the late arrival and often repeat instructions. **It is unfair that the choices of a few should disrupt the education of the many who arrive promptly and are working hard towards their GCSEs.**

Our school value of **Do The Right Thing** means taking responsibility for our actions and respecting others. With GCSE examinations approaching, every minute of learning really does matter.

Leavers' Hoodies – Class of 2027

We are delighted to be working with **Hartland Hoodies** to offer our traditional Year 11 leavers' hoodies, a wonderful keepsake of students' five years at New Mills School.

Hoodies cost **£22.75** and can be ordered directly using the following link and invite code:

Order here: <https://account.hartlandhoodies.com/invite/RQLLHZMK/>

Invite code: RQLLHZMK

Order deadline: Monday 7 December 2026

Hoodies are expected to be available in January. Students who record **no more than six late arrivals to school or lessons between Monday 2 November 2026 and Friday 22 January 2027** will earn the privilege of wearing their hoodie in school instead of their blazer from Monday 25 January 2027. Students who record **more than six late arrivals to school or to lessons** during this period will not be permitted to wear their hoodie in school at that stage. **Please consider this carefully before placing an order.** Purchasing a hoodie does not guarantee early issue or permission to wear it in school. We will not make exceptions simply because a hoodie has been purchased. If you

believe your child is unlikely to meet the punctuality expectations, you may prefer not to purchase one but we will retain the hoodies until each student meets the punctuality expectation.

We will review punctuality every two weeks during the spring term, giving students further opportunities to earn this privilege through sustained improvement. Students who do not meet the expectations will receive their purchased hoodie at the **Year 11 Leavers' Assembly, following their final GCSE examination.**

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the end of five years at New Mills School. However, **an invitation to Prom is a privilege, not an automatic entitlement.** The same punctuality expectations will apply. Students who record **no more than six late arrivals between 2 November and 22 January** will earn eligibility to purchase a Prom ticket when tickets become available in the summer term. We must be clear that **there is a very real possibility that some students will not be invited to Prom** if their punctuality does not improve. We strongly advise parents against purchasing expensive Prom outfits, booking transport or making other non-refundable arrangements until their child's eligibility has been confirmed.

Students with seven or more late arrivals will not qualify for an invitation at this stage. Their punctuality will be reviewed during the spring term, and sustained improvement will be required before eligibility can be reconsidered.

Year 11 Christmas Rewards Trip

We are also planning a special **Year 11 cinema trip in December** to recognise students' hard work and progress. There will be **60 places available**, with invitations prioritising students who have demonstrated progress between their end-of-Year-10 mock examinations and their first Year 11 mock examinations. The cost is yet to be confirmed but was approximately **£15 last year**. Further details will follow.

These incentives are intended to motivate, not punish. Every student starts with a clean slate on Monday 2 November, and every student has the opportunity to earn these privileges by demonstrating good punctuality. Where there are genuine medical, SEND or other exceptional circumstances affecting punctuality, please contact the Year 11 Student Support lead, Miss L Tabbenor so that appropriate support can be provided and individual circumstances considered. Any contact regarding this will be addressed after the half term break. We sincerely hope every member of the Class of 2027 will rise to this challenge. We want them to enjoy their hoodies, celebrate together at Prom and, most importantly, leave New Mills School with the very best GCSE results they can achieve.

Good behaviour, excellent punctuality and excellent attendance will also be considered when selecting students.

A fresh start for everyone

A full Year 11 assembly is taking place this week to explain the arrangements to students, and we would appreciate your support in reinforcing our expectations at home.

Be on time. Do the right thing. Make every lesson count.



Headteacher

New Mills School, Church Lane, New Mills, High Peak, SK22 4NR
01663 743284

head@newmillsschool.co.uk

#thinkbig #dothething #teamspirit #thisisnewmills