

Solway Community School

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5th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new school year! I am very much looking forward to the challenges and events of 2016 – 2017, and to getting to know our new Year 7 students in particular.

Congratulations must go to our Year 11 students who picked up their results in August. I am pleased to report that our GCSE exam results in the summer showed a rise on the previous year: all the 5A*-C measures were considerably higher, and our Progress 8 score – the new gold standard by which we are judged – was above the floor standard set by the DfE. Almost all of last year's Year 11 have gone on to further or higher education, including six coming back to our Sixth Form which is great.

The summer has gone quickly and we are already back in to the swing of school life. Here at school we are delighted to welcome three new members of staff. Mr Tom Davies joins us in the Maths and Science Faculty, Miss Catherine Steel is covering Mrs Woodman's maternity leave this year in Spanish, and Miss Natasha McGregor will be teaching English and Drama. They are all strong additions to the teaching staff and we are looking forward to a successful year.

Useful dates for your diary are on the reverse of this letter for your information.

We have lots of plans for this year. We will be offering Year 11 students extra tuition after school with members of the senior staff as they gear up for this most important year. Lower down the school we are looking forward to teaching metacognition – thinking about thinking! Our focus is on teaching our students at KS3 to be independent learners, developing skills they will need for the future like critical thinking, problem solving and being able to transfer these skills from one subject area to the next. We are looking forward to challenging them. Of course there will be all the usual extra curricular activities – the Interhouse Competition gets underway on Thursday September 15th with girls' football, and we are expecting our netball teams to do as well as they did last year across the county!

Please do contact me at school if you have any queries about anything. I am always pleased to hear from parents and welcome ideas and comments. And, if you would like to see the school in action, please do call the office to arrange a visit.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Headteacher