



8th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to the Christmas break.

I'm writing to you following a very successful first term for this academic year. It's been a privilege to start as Headteacher of Sale High School and the students and staff have made me feel very welcome. It was great to meet and talk to so many of you during the welcome evenings. Your passion and support for the school and our students was evident and makes my role even more exciting.

I wanted to firstly take this opportunity to talk about a few examples of how impressive our students have been this term. There are so many examples I could have chosen but I've just highlighted a few below.

Student Leadership

It's been a great term for student leaders. We had our student council and student president recruitment processes earlier in the term and these teams are now well underway leading on projects across the school.

Student leaders delivered excellent Remembrance Day presentations across form groups and took the lead selling poppies across the school. Over the last couple of weeks, they have led the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Collection, which has the important aim of making sure children don't go empty handed on Christmas Day. At last count they had done an amazing job of collecting nearly 200 toys to hand over to the appeal.

Lastly, they have taken the lead on planning and organising our school Christmas Festival, which will take place on Tuesday 19th December.

Christmas Festival

The Student Council and Year 11 student leadership team will be hosting our school Christmas Festival throughout the day on Tuesday 19th December. Students are encouraged to bring a little cash with them (suggest between £1-5) as all students will have the opportunity to visit the stalls which include a chocolate tombola, karaoke, a hot chocolate stand, decorate your own Christmas bauble, cookie decorating, face painting and nail decoration, a bake sale and much more!

We will hold our Christmas jumper day on the same day, where students can pay £1 to wear a Christmas jumper or, if they prefer, their traditional cultural dress.

Parents will also be invited to enter a prize draw, £1 per entry for a chance to win a Christmas hamper, please make payment via ParentPay.

All funds raised will go towards funding improvements to school that have been identified by the Student Council.



Sporting Excellence

We have some fantastic examples of sporting excellence this term. Our Year 9 girls and boys swimming teams competed with the rest of the schools in Trafford and both came 3rd in the recent Trafford swimming gala. There were some incredible individual and team performances and we're really proud of them.

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders passed their DfE 'Your Time' programme and ran the Trafford Schools Primary School Indoor Athletics event in the school sports hall alongside Altrincham Athletics Club and the Trafford School Sport Partnership co-ordinator. 6 local primaries were represented and the students did a fantastic job of hosting the event.

Winter Examinations

Over the last few weeks students have been revising for and taking their winter exams. These exams are important for teachers to see how well students can remember what they have been taught over a period of time and are an excellent opportunity to prepare students for future external examinations. This is particularly key for Year 11 students as the experience they've had will go a long way to preparing them for what to expect in the summer. The feedback from teachers and invigilators was that students worked hard and took these exams seriously.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a couple of areas that we have been working on and to highlight some changes that we are planning to make.

Changes to Behaviour Processes

Since joining the school, one observation I've been able to make with fresh eyes is that some of the systems and processes we have in place haven't quite caught up with the growth in student numbers. One area that this is noticeable is with our behaviour and reward systems.

In response to this we will be launching an updated behaviour system from January, which looks similar to our current system but with a few key changes to help us manage it more efficiently and effectively.

Classcharts

The main change from a parent perspective will be that there is a new app to download and use. We are bringing in a piece of software called Classcharts, which allows us to monitor behaviour and rewards across school in real time. This will allow us to be more effective in cutting out low level disruption and deescalating issues in classrooms by intervening at an earlier stage. The software also has much better analytics and will enable us to be more strategic regarding behavioural trends. From a rewards perspective, we will be in a better position to make sure that the vast majority of our students who regularly do the right thing are being rewarded for this.

You will receive more information about Classcharts, including how to login and access your account, in the coming weeks.



A summary of the main changes to behaviour and rewards systems:

- We will be moving to Classcharts to record and monitor behaviour and rewards
- The consequence system will still be used in lessons, but a student issued a C3 during the lesson will be removed and placed in our Reset Room to complete their work for the remainder of the lesson
- Students issued a C3 will also be given a whole school detention, to sit the next day
- Notifications to parents for any detentions that are issued will be done through Classcharts

The revised behaviour policy, which outlines the system in detail will be available on the school website before the start of the Spring Term, following approval from governors.

Uniform

As the weather has become colder, we have started to see non-uniform items of clothing being worn. Please support us to maintain standards by ensuring that your child brings a coat and not a hoody into school, as these aren't allowed during the school day and will be confiscated. Please also ensure different coloured thick socks aren't being worn over tights.

Last Day Arrangements

As in previous years, there will be an earlier finish on the last day of the Autumn term. **Students will finish school on Wednesday 20th December at 12.30pm**, so please make suitable arrangements for this. The school bus will still be running and will collect students at the earlier time. Students receiving free school meals will be able to buy food at break time, as will all other students.

All students will start back for the Spring Term on Monday 8th January 2024 at the usual time.

I hope you have an enjoyable break over Christmas.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Rogers', written in a cursive style.

**Mr A Rogers
Headteacher**