

News Updates

GCSE Results

Thursday 22nd August was a day of great celebration as Year 11 and Year 10 came in to collect their amazing GCSE results. The following extract from our press release will help you understand how proud we are of our students:

Our GCSE students move on to the next stage in their lives' journey ready to succeed, not only as a consequence of the record-breaking results they have achieved, which were a significant improvement on last year's examinations results, but because they leave us as wonderfully rounded, confident, independent members of our community.

Our successes:

- *The attainment of ALL students: 70% achieved a standard pass in 5 GCSE subjects including English and mathematics [A* -C in old money]. A phenomenal 10% improvement from last year.*
- *Our boys: We worked seamlessly with our young men to overcome the traditional barriers boys face and bucked the national trend so that they met or exceeded their targets guaranteeing places in colleges and apprenticeships.*
- *Our Most Able Students: Our brightest students have again excelled securing multiple top grades, ensuring that all future doors are open to them.*
- *Our Disadvantaged Students - It gives us the utmost pleasure to report that we have more than halved the gap between our most vulnerable students and their peers.*
- *Option Subjects- Students' performance in their chosen subjects has truly soared; whether that be Photography where a phenomenal third of students achieved a grade 9 [the super A*] or History where the same proportion of our students achieved the highest grades.*
- *Year 10: Students entering Year 11 this September begin the final stage of their secondary school life with a GCSE qualification in Religious Studies. These students achieved the highest number of grade 8s and 9s on record and we are very proud of them.*

These amazing successes have been achieved through the tireless work of all of our staff, whether that be teaching or non-teaching staff; the dedication of our wonderful students and the fabulous support we have received from family.

Site Improvements

We are excited to report that lots of work has taken place on our school site throughout the Summer. We have had a complete lighting replacement with LED lighting being installed in every classroom ensuring that students' working environments are bright and also environmentally friendly. Huge progress has been made on the extension and surface replacement of our large Astro turf surface. This is really exciting and we would like to thank Leigh Genesis for their further investment into the site. On completion our sports facilities will be second to none.

OFSTED

At the end of the summer term we were visited by a team of Ofsted inspectors. The report for this has now been sent to the school and is available on the school website (location address) and on the Ofsted website from Tuesday 10th September. It was very frustrating that they didn't come this term following the great set of results that we achieved! Ofsted believed that we were overgenerous in our estimations of how fast our results were improving; however, we actually achieved the great set of results based on the predictions we had given to the inspectors during the inspection. This shows the amazing hard work our teachers put into developing our students **and** also how accurate our teacher predictions were. They recognised how we had successfully acted on each area which they had identified at the previous inspection. To locate the Ofsted report please go to www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk/ofsted.

Heads of Year

As parents in Years 8-11 will be aware we have moved from Heads of House to Heads of Year as we strongly believe that this will provide an even higher level of support for students. On Tuesday morning all year groups had their first assembly with their head of year.

The Heads of Year are as follows:

Year 7: Mrs Roberts

Year 8: Miss Gebelli

Year 9: Miss Green

Year 10: Mr Hayes

Year 11: Miss Busek

Staffing

I'm delighted to announce the promotion of Miss Clare from Assistant Headteacher to Deputy Headteacher (Miss Clare is also our Designated Lead for Safeguarding). Mrs Cooper, who was formerly head of MFL has now taken on the key position of SENDCo.

Mr Mooney has taken up the Head of Computing following the retirement of Mrs Owens and Miss Picton has joined our PE Department.

Working Together To Achieve Success

As a school we are committed to providing the best quality of education for all our students and we thank you for the great support that you give us as parents and carers. A few points I would like to ask for your support on as we work together are as follows:

Communication

I strongly recommend that if you have access to Facebook you follow us. We use this to showcase some of the amazing work that is going on in our school. Please don't use this page as a method of communicating with us as **we do not respond to these**. If you wish to contact the school please do not hesitate to contact us by phone on 01942 767040 or by email on enquiries@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk If you have not already signed up to Parent App I strongly recommend this as a way of keeping up to date with your child's progress. Parent App allows you to access your child's timetable, progress reports and sends you notifications of rewards etc.

Equipment and Homework

As you know we have an equipment list that we expect all students to have so they arrive at each lesson ready to learn. We ask that we can work together with you checking that they always bring the correct equipment and books to school, especially their homework! One of the easiest ways to support your child is to access the Show My Homework App (or Website) this will outline each homework and when it is due in.

Bicycles

It has been good to see the increasing number of students who are using bikes to travel to school. We ask that you can ensure that they bring with them a lock and travel in a bike helmet. Helmets can be left with form tutor or in student support and picked up at the end of the day.

Julian Pollard
Headteacher