



Our ref: MME/HFT
Date: 20th June 2019

Dear parent or carer,

We have been extremely proud of the way our Year 11 students have coped with their GCSE exams and we are looking forward to seeing their results in August.

As the exams have now finished, their thoughts will now turn to next year. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information which I shared with the students in an assembly before their exams started. I also wanted to highlight some new developments which have happened during their exam period.

I wanted to ensure that the students had all of the facts particularly about other Post 16 providers in the city. We have made significant improvements to our Sixth Form and this was reflected in our Ofsted inspection where the quality of our Sixth Form was judged as good. This means that we are the only good Sixth Form in the whole west of Leeds area. Other points to note are that:

- Ofsted said there was 'very effective teaching in the Sixth Form where students benefit from teachers' strong subject knowledge and appropriate challenge' Ofsted April 2019
- Our class sizes are half the size of the two larger Sixth Form colleges in Leeds giving students more time with their teacher in lessons
- Our students have a much higher completion rate than all of the other Post 16 colleges in the city
- Our facilitating A level subjects* measure is nearly 5 times better than Elliot Hudson College's, almost double that of Notre Dame College and 6% higher than the national average.

Our school is part of a Confederation which served the school well in the past. However as the quality of our school has improved it has become increasingly obvious that our students prefer to be taught here at Pudsey Grangefield, and tend to perform better for a number of reasons. As a result we have planned our curriculum to ensure that our staff teach our students rather than them having to travel to either Priesthorpe or Crawshaw Academies. We have worked hard to ensure that from September 2019 96% of our students' courses are taught at Pudsey Grangefield by our staff.

We are also investing in our Sixth Form and the following lists the exciting developments which will be in place for the next academic year:

- We have appointed a highly experience Senior Leader to drive forward further improvements in our Sixth Form. James Burkinshaw will be the Assistant Principal who leads the Sixth Form
- Helen Fisher is our new Post 16 Pastoral Support Leader and Careers Advisor
- We are appointing another leadership post by the end of the summer with a remit of raising student aspirations
- We are providing greater access to ICT through the purchase of more Chromebooks and resources.



- The library will become a dedicated Sixth Form Study Centre
- All students will have timetabled supervised study to support student revision
- All students will have one period a week dedicated to form time to prepare for careers and university
- Staff are reviewing our schemes of work and resources to support revision.
- Improvements are being made to 'common room' facilities including a hot drinks vending machine
- There will be an extended range of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities including a Head Boy and Girl and the ability to get involved in the wider life of the school
- A New Year 12 trip to Paris is planned for next summer
- All students will complete an Extended Project Qualification on any topic they choose. This qualification is worth an additional AS level and is good preparation for life beyond school.

One key benefit of staying on in our Sixth Form is that our staff know the students well. This means that they do not have to adjust to a different system but instead will pick up where they left their GCSE courses and take full advantage of everything we have to offer. In addition to this along with the significantly smaller class sizes, as a high quality local Sixth Form our students do not waste a large amount of their time travel across the city during rush hour at the start and end of the day. This gives them more time to focus on their studies.

We are pleased at the increasing number of students who are choosing to continue their education at Pudsey Grangefield School but we want to ensure that all of our students make an informed decision about their path after GCSE. I would be grateful if you could discuss the information in this letter with your son or daughter as many of the developments are new and they will not be aware of them. I hope this letter provides an illustration of the high quality experience your son or daughter will receive if they return choose to continue their education at Pudsey Grangefield School in September.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss our Sixth Form further, please do not hesitate to contact James Burkinshaw (J.Burkin01@pudseygrangefield.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**Mr M McKelvie
Principal**