



Urmston Grammar School

4th September 2026

RE: Start of Year Update 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer break and are now settling back into the routines which the start of a new school year brings. I am writing to you to celebrate some of our students' successes with you, welcome new members to our school community, and provide some other timely updates.

This summer we celebrated some truly phenomenal examination results. The most important aspect of GCSE and A Level results days is that each individual student has achieved grades they are proud of, reflect their hard work, and allow them to follow their next steps in education, employment or training. It is also wonderful when the cumulation of these individual achievements create some fantastic headline measures for our school. This year 76.4% of all GCSE grades were 7-9 with over half of all grades achieved being 8s and 9s. These are the strongest GCSE results in our school's history. Performance at A Level was similarly strong with 74% of all grades being A*-B. There were 45 students achieved three or more A* and A grades and 44% of all grades were A*-A; another record for our school. We have welcomed many of our outgoing Year 11s back into the sixth form to start their A Level journey, and over the coming weeks 174 of our sixth form leavers will be starting undergraduate degree courses at universities across the UK. This year Liverpool University is our most popular Post-18 destination with 31 students shortly beginning their studies there. We also have students embarking on apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships in a number of different fields.

The start of a new school year means we welcome a number of new members of our school community. Mrs Begum has joined our Social Sciences Department and Mr Chivers has joined the MFL Faculty. We also welcome Miss Downing to the Science Faculty, Miss Shelton to the English Faculty and Mrs Unwin to the Art Department. This year approximately 80 students have transferred to our sixth form in Year 12 having completed their GCSEs at other schools across Greater Manchester. Our new Year 7 cohort are also settling in well into life at secondary school.

As of September 2026, a new law has come into force requiring secondary schools to limit the number of branded school uniform items students are required to wear. For this reason our School Uniform Policy has been updated on our website [HERE](#). The main changes concern our PE kit, but another update is with regard to blouses. Previously girls have been allowed to wear a blouse in place of a standard white shirt and tie in the summer term. Following the review of our policy this option has now been removed, meaning all students are expected to wear the same standard white shirt and tie throughout the year. This change has



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been made to ensure equality and consistency across our school community and will help ensure students are smartly presented and expectations applied fairly to everyone.

In the final week of the summer term we had the pleasure of welcoming a team of Ofsted Inspectors into school to conduct a routine inspection of Urmston Grammar. Ofsted are currently finalising the written report, and I look forward to sharing this with you as soon as it is published in the coming weeks.

We have a range of events which will be taking place throughout of the year which give parents and carers the opportunity to come into school. Further information regarding these will be sent out in due course. I hope to see many of you in school during the weeks and months ahead.

Many thanks for your continued support. I look forward to seeing all our students progress and flourish as the year progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Kennedy-Fowler'.

Mr T Kennedy-Fowler
Headteacher