

Urmston Grammar School

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7th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I was delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 to school on Monday and to welcome back all other year groups yesterday. It was lovely to see so many happy faces, students full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

The start of a new academic year gives us all the opportunity to consider what is important to us as a school community, what we want from our school experience and what we can contribute.

We want each student to understand their unique abilities and talents, to realise what they can achieve and to understand that they have an important part to play in ensuring their success. It is an appropriate time to remind them of our key messages of pride, participation and empathy.

We want all students to take pride in themselves and all that they do; every student should work hard to ensure that they reach their full potential.

We want every student to make the most of opportunities that are available to them; each student should commit to participating in school life both inside and outside the classroom.

We also want all students to develop empathy for others, to understand their feelings and to be determined about supporting others who are not as fortunate as they are. It is important that we continue to strengthen our community and that we all look after one another.

In the Summer Term the school was inspected by OFSTED under the new demanding 2019 Education Inspection Framework.

Inspectors conducted curriculum reviews and lesson visits followed by a number of focused analyses on behaviour, safeguarding, personal development, SEND and the culture of reading. The inspectors met with groups of students, teachers, the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Department, Support Staff, Pastoral Leaders and members of the Governing Body.

The overall effectiveness of the school was graded 'good' and the report will be published online in the next week.

Many of you will be aware from the media that OfSTED's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, has stated clearly that she intended to halve the number of schools that were previously graded 'outstanding'.

Urmston Grammar School - Headteacher: Mrs R S Wall
pride, participation, empathy

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Prior to 2019 20% of schools were rated as outstanding; in the last academic year only 5.5% of all inspections under the new framework resulted in an outstanding outcome.

I have attached a copy of the inspection report as a part of this letter and you will see that there are many positive comments that recognise the strengths of the students and the staff, and the fantastic qualities of our amazing school.

However, this was just a snapshot of the Urmston Grammar experience and we felt that the process did not fully capture all that our school has to offer. We have already challenged some aspects of the inspection as well as the conduct of the Lead Inspector; the complaint process is ongoing.

We will continue to work with our students, staff, parents, Governing Body and our community to ensure we build and improve on the positive experiences of all those connected with our school.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting you during the course of the academic year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R S Wall', with a long, sweeping underline.

R S Wall
Headteacher