

December 2019



**Rossett School**

Success for everyone

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Headteacher's Letter: Autumn/Winter Term 2019**

The second half of the autumn term is always busy, and this year was no exception; our Key Stage 4 students prepared for their first set of mock examinations this year, in December, and as a school we celebrated key events this half-term including the Presentation Evening for our outgoing Year 11s and Sports' Presentation Evening, both held in our main school hall and featuring guest speakers. This week we have also celebrated the achievements of students across the whole of years 7-13 with two-hour long events in the Sports' Hall to reward students for Achievement, the Rossett 3Rs (Responsibility, Resilience and Reflection), Contribution to the Community and Sports awards. We also recognised our 100% attenders in a draw for a small prize to highlight the importance of striving for better attendance in the coming months. Our Music Department played festive tunes with full participation by lower and upper school students and the Art Department carried on the Rossett tradition of taking the length of Wizzard's 'I Wish it Could be Christmas every Day' to produce two seasonal images in paint whilst the audience tried to guess the final reveal!

Year 7 have had a particularly active preparation for Christmas with their 'Double Your Money Event' where they proved their entrepreneurial skills whilst raising hundreds of pounds for charity. The whole year group were involved in both this and the Shoebox appeal to provide toys for children who must spend the Christmas holiday away from home, in hospital. Along with the older musicians in the school, some Year 7 students (many who have only just started a new instrument this term) visited a local retirement home to bring Christmas cheer with carols and tunes.

I would like to extend an especially warm welcome this term to the families of students who have joined us from other countries and schools in the last few months and weeks.

### **This letter includes some updates and key information for next half-term:**

#### **Teaching and Learning, post-OfSTED**

Following on from our recent OfSTED visit in June, I would like to take this opportunity to give you as parents an insight into the work that has been ongoing during this last term in standardising practice throughout the school:

- Just this week we have welcomed into school our external reviewer from Pearson to complete a Lead Standards Verification process around standards at Key Stage 4. The Senior Team lead at Rossett was commended for, 'strong management oversight and good leadership' of our internal processes and standards.
- In November, we underwent a full review of our Pupil Premium/Disadvantaged student provision again from an external, nationally-approved provider. The report of their review of our Pupil Premium provision highlighted our internal work as, 'thorough and fully reflective of the (school's) drive to ensure that disadvantaged pupils achieve'. Mr Saunders (Associate Deputy Headteacher) led the work in school and the audit commended the school for the great 'amount of support put into place since the recent OfSTED report in June 2019.'
- Our re-worked Presentation Policy has seen students further challenged to produce consistently high standards of presentation and completion in every year group and every lesson. We are really pleased by the response from students as a result of this initiative, which was started in 2018.

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- We have had an external review of standards of learning at Key Stage 4 in core subjects, with a focus on Mathematics, and I am pleased to say that the results of this, combined with the application of our rigorous internal processes, have reiterated our own self-evaluation of teaching standards in the school this year.

There will be a formal opportunity for parents to attend a post-OfSTED Presentation Evening in the first week in February 2020. Confirmation of the date and instructions on how to register for attendance will be sent out next term.

### **Show My Homework**

A reminder to everyone with parental responsibility, should you not have access to your child's online homework account through Show My Homework, please get in touch with Mr Underwood on [office@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:office@rossettschool.co.uk) requesting help with access.

### **Sixth Form Updates**

The Sixth Form committee has been working tirelessly to make a difference to Rossett School and its wider community. Ably led by our Head and Deputy Head Girls and Boys, the committee has already set about raising money for charity this year.

Both the Head Boy and Head Girl promised to make a difference in school in their election speeches and they have not disappointed. There are plans to raise money, lead on the student council work and work with staff in a variety of mentoring and leadership roles within the school.

### **Visits and other news**

During October, we visited our friends from our partner school in Falmouth, New England USA for our annual exchange trip. Running for over thirty years, this link provides a great chance for our students to meet American students and to experience education and life on a different continent, and for them to be truly immersed in Yorkshire life on their return here in April 2020. It will be the turn of our Japanese exchange, next year.

On Remembrance Sunday, our students took part in an act of Remembrance on the school site where words and a trumpet sounding The Last Post finished a week of assemblies led by me, as Headteacher, asking our next generation to carry through the stories and lessons learnt from the conflicts that gone before. All students represented the school well, with a drive to sell poppies to all students in preparation for Remembrance Sunday.

In the remaining weeks of this term, we have begun the application process for Year 11 pupils wishing to apply for our A Level, BTEC, EPQ, Football Scholarship and other courses. Rossett School offers students the chance to study something they are passionate about. We have small class sizes, where students are well-known, carefully tutored and prepared for the next steps in their education. They also take part in a wide range of extra opportunities and leadership pathways preparing them to become valuable and valued citizens. We have experienced Sixth Form staff who ensure students make effective progress. Our successful Open Evening was held on Thursday 5 December. If you still would like one-to-one guidance or support with the application process, please contact Ms P Higgins: [phiggins@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:phiggins@rossettschool.co.uk)

### **Summer Results GCSE**

We are delighted to announce that the DFE performance tables show Rossett School to have a positive Progress 8 (P8) score. This means students attending Rossett School consistently make more progress during their time here than those students nationally from a similar starting point.

Although we are proud of all groups of learners, mention must be made of the performance of students whose circumstances were such that they were entitled to extra support in school. Those students really embraced the opportunities presented to them and in many cases showed higher progress than the national average performance of students entitled to extra support.

**Mock exams**

Years 10 and 11 have completed their mock examinations and will now have a mock Results' Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. They will take part in a simulated 'results' day' with their mock results being discussed and follow-up advice given.

Please also remember that GCSEPod is available for all students, as an aid to revision throughout the year at: <https://www.gcsepod.com>.

GCSEPod contains videos and questions to practice and is a great way to support revision at home. If any student is unsure about their login details for GCSEPod, they need to email their Director of Learning to ask for the password to be reset.

**Staffing**

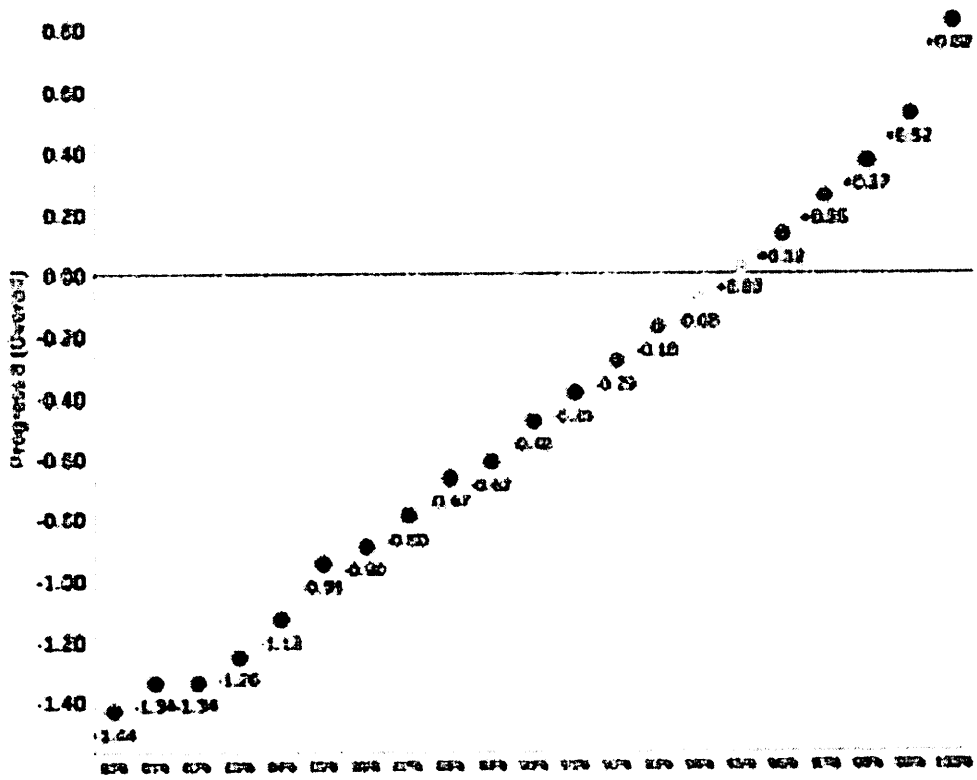
As we say farewell to Miss Edwards, Mr Thomson and Mr Bradshaw this term, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Atkinson (Science), Mr Denny (Physics) and our own Miss Fairbairn to the leadership of P.E. from January 2020.

**Attendance**

A reminder about how vital attendance is in order for children to do well at school. This is why at Rossett School we set a target of 97% attendance. We know that most of our families try very hard to make sure their child's attendance is good but would like to take this opportunity to remind you why it is important.

The graph below is a piece of work put together by the Fisher Family Trust and is hot off the press. A progress score of 0 means that the outcomes at the end of year 11 are in line with the national average. The graph shows that an attendance of 94% or above will lead to better outcomes than 'similar ability students' with an attendance of 94% or lower.

Working together with you, our families, on attendance provides our young people with the best opportunities.

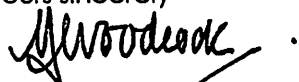


Average Progress 8 score and attendance

I would like to conclude by thanking all of our parents and carers for their continued support this year. So many of you have come to speak to members of staff and to me about your support for the school and the staff and I have appreciated the time that you have invested in doing this. We have reflected on our current position, judged at the end of one style of OfSTED framework, and are rapidly continuing our preparations – started in 2018 - for the new-look OfSTED, where judgements will be made around the curriculum that schools provide; the knowledge imparted to students; and how all other work within the school supports this key purpose.

I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday and a restful break and look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday, 6 January 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Woodcock', followed by a period. A thin line extends from the bottom of the signature towards the typed name below.

H Woodcock  
Headteacher