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SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL

SLE/CTN

27th August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome to my first newsletter of the year and indeed my first newsletter as Headteacher of Saddleworth.

Firstly, I am looking forward to leading this community. I have officially started and I am absolutely committed to ensuring that Saddleworth becomes a great school and that the children here get what they deserve, and that is that they receive a great education. In practice this means they achieve well, are taught values and feel a strong sense of belonging. My mantra is that *'happy children achieve'.* I am excited about the prospects ahead and will relish working with students, staff and parents to realise our new vision, which is *'to be great in all we do'.* Over the next few months and years, you will hear me talk a lot about this vision.

Secondly, my monthly newsletters are to share and **celebrate** all the great things that will be happening in this community. I start this academic year with great confidence and optimism.

GCSE results August 2026

We were delighted to see the hard work and determination that the class of 2026 put into their final year which saw them achieve some well-deserved results in August. The school's examination results have improved on previous years with *headline measures exceeding national averages.* The class of 2026 should be proud of their achievements, and we wish them well in their next steps in education, employment or training. They demonstrated that the ingredients for exam success continue to be hard work, a positive attitude to learning in lessons, regular revision throughout the year and excellent attendance to school and study support sessions.

Attendance

At the start of the academic year, it is crucial that I highlight the importance of attendance. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents of the three major reasons why attendance is vital for your child.

1. *Safeguarding.* If they are in school, they are safe. Safety is the highest priority at Saddleworth.
2. *Learning.* If they are not in school, they miss out on learning. Rarely, do children 'catch-up'
3. *Personal development*. At school they are socialising with their friends which supports their well-being

Last year a significant number of parents took their children out of school during term time to go on holiday. For clarity, I will **not authorise** any holidays and last year 87 parents were fined who did so. As a reminder, good attendance is an important aspect of a child's development.

Working with parents

As I committed to in June, I want to ensure strong communication with parents. Working with parents is the best way to make sure Saddleworth is a great school.

- ✓ Each month I am going to have a **Headteacher surgery** where I will be available from 6.30 am to 4.30 pm to meet parents. My first surgery will take place on **Thursday 17th September**. Please contact Mrs Reece via email headspa@saddleworthschool.org to arrange an appointment.

- ✓ Every Friday morning from 9.15 to 10.00am I will **tour the school** with any parents that want to see the school 'in action'. I hope that parents take me up on this offer. The first tour will be on Friday 18th September and thereafter every Friday. Please contact Mrs Reece headspa@saddleworthschool.org to arrange a personalised tour with myself.

- ✓ During this half term there are **parental information evenings** for each year group. These are to impart important information to parents that are relevant to each year group. I ask that parents make every effort to attend these. They are to support you and your child in achieving their potential. Please see the dates below. **This evening is for parents only due to space.**

- Wednesday 16th September **Yr11 parental information evening. 6–7pm.**
- Thursday 1st October **Yr10 parental information evening. 6–7pm.**
- Wednesday 9th September **Yr9 parental information evening. 6–7pm.**
- Tuesday 13th October **Yr8 parental information evening. 6–7pm.**
- Wednesday 21st October **Yr7 parental information evening. 6–7pm.**

Expectations and rules at Saddleworth

Before school starts, I will take this opportunity to reiterate our SIX simple rules. These *simple, fair and transparent* rules set the tone, ensuring that we are a strong and united community. Below are our **Six rules** that all students must adhere to. For further details on these rules, please see our web site.

1. Correct Uniform. A smart uniform is a reflection on our ambitions, and I want our students to be ambassadors for Saddleworth and wear the uniform with pride.
2. No jewellery/make up.
3. No mobile Phones, smart watches or air pods. These will be confiscated and parents will have to collect from reception.
4. Arrive to school and lessons on time with correct equipment. This is basic and shows a good attitude to learning.
5. Eat only in designated areas. This is to ensure that Saddleworth is a clean environment for your child.
6. Respect is our core value. This means respecting your peers, all adults and the environment.

These 6 rules are reiterated throughout the year and students are educated on these as and when appropriate. I ask parents to ensure that their child support these rules. They are non-negotiable and it is your child who will benefit from a safe, calm and purposeful environment.

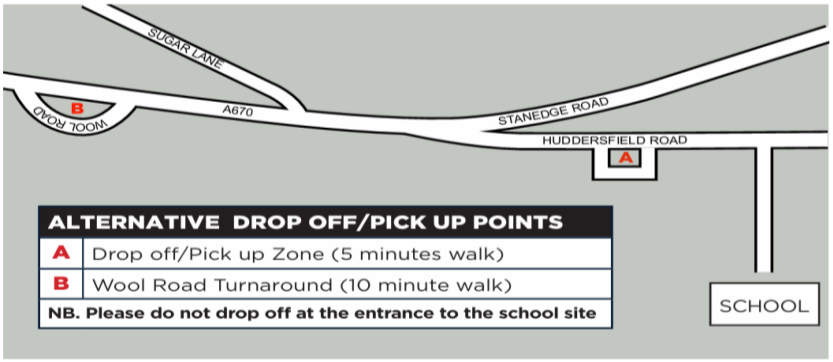
Brief update on our 'Restart Room'

One of the key changes this year is to our 'Restart' room. This will be replaced with a 'reflection' room. However, I must stress that this is more than simply a name change. These changes are outlined in behaviour and attitudes to learning policy on our website. There will be one member of staff supervising this room and if your child is placed in the reflection room, they will stay in the room until 16:00. During this time, they will have the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour, be provided with work that matches their curriculum and engage in restorative, reflection sessions with a learning mentor to support changes in behaviours. As per our policy, you will be given advanced notice of this. I want this room to be used sparingly and as an alternative to a suspension so that students

are in their lessons learning as much as possible to secure excellent outcomes. However, if students persistently disrupt the learning of others, then their place at Saddleworth is at risk.

Reminder about the school car park

Parents are asked not to drop children off in school or collect at the end of the day. This is to protect your child and ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. There are a few drop off points as seen in the diagram below. Staff will be enforcing this.



Safeguarding and contact details

Please can you ensure that school has the correct contact details for your child. Not only is this important in case of an emergency but also because we send out vital information via MCAS (My child at school), post, email and text message. Please make sure that we have your correct email, mobile and address. It is advised that we have 3 emergency contacts on the school system. If you feel we need to update our records, please use the MCAS app or contact the school office on info@saddleworthschool.org.

Head Boy and Head Girl

At the end of the last academic year, I was delighted to interview strong candidates for the prestigious role of Head Boy and Head Girl at Saddleworth School. Their confidence, ambition and genuine commitment to serving the school community made the selection process both inspiring and incredibly difficult. However, I had to make a decision and a huge congratulations to Fraser and Mia on being appointed Head Boy and Head Girl for 2026 - 2027! Congratulations also to their deputies Sam, Dylan, Emme and Amelia. I have every confidence they will uphold and support the ethos and rules of the school and lead with integrity, kindness, and dedication.

Duke of Edinburgh [DofE]

At the end of last year, I received a significant number of emails from parents regarding the benefits of the DofE award. The emails were great to read with parents saying that they built their confidence, developed their leadership skills and made 'new friends'. I do not underestimate the organising and planning that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that this is a success. Thanks to all staff involved in making this a huge success.

Transition Evening

Our Transition Evening, for the class of 2031, was a fantastic opportunity to welcome our new students and their families to the Saddleworth community, helping them feel excited, confident and well prepared for the journey ahead. They are starting Saddleworth at an exciting time, and the staff

here will ensure that they have a great five years. The overwhelming feeling from the night was highly positive.

Senior Leadership Team [SLT] update

I am pleased to announce that, for September, the Senior Leadership roles have all been appointed and they are ready to work as a coherent team to ensure that your child gets a great education. In my September newsletter I will share a synopsis of each member of SLT and their responsibilities. I look forward to working with a strong senior leadership to ensure that your child gets at least a good education.

Parent evenings this year

In addition to the parental information evenings at the start of the year, each year group has a formal parents' evening where parents and students meet their subject teachers for individual appointments. The dates for these are as follows and are from **4pm to 7pm**.

- Yr7 Parents' Evening: 29th April 2027
- Yr8 Parents' Evening: 10th December 2026
- Yr9 Parents' Evening: 25th February 2027
- Yr10 Parents' Evening: 24th March 2027
- Yr11 Parents' Evening: 7th January 2027

I am looking forward to a very successful year for the Saddleworth community.

Yours sincerely

Mr Logue
Headteacher