



PASSION FOR LEARNING

Moorland School is celebrating another clutch of impressive exam results and has announced plans for a new sixth form centre, reports *Tony Dewhurst*. Photography: TVPAV.com

With a brand new sixth form centre planned for 2012, additional GCSE courses and exceptional sporting opportunities, Moorland School prides itself on offering academic excellence and family values.

And for the first time in Moorland's 80-year history, the independent Ribble Valley school will be including A level courses on its curriculum next year as the school extends its range of opportunities for its young people.

"The new A level centre will be another step into the future for Moorland, and I think we are ready for that next academic challenge," said Headmaster Jonathan Harrison.

"More importantly for the very

first time Clitheroe will have another option, and from next year it is going to give parents and children a set of educational choices they've never had before.

“ IT GOES TO SHOW THAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE EXCELLENT GCSE RESULTS WITHIN AN ACADEMICALLY NON-SELECTIVE SCHOOL ”

"I feel passionately about the children having that option in the Ribble Valley. It is sad to see children crestfallen and upset because they didn't get the grades for the grammar school, but soon there will be a second choice, a second chance to remain within

the Ribble Valley, and Clitheroe."

In last year's GCSE exams 100 per cent of pupils achieved six A* – C grades, and Moorland's celebrating another clutch of impressive exam results – with Head Boy and Girl James Cowell and Lydia Smith leading the way.

James gained 12 GCSE passes, with one A*, two A's, eight B's and a C, while Lydia reeled in 3 A*, two A's and seven B's.

"The results were really good and we are very proud of them, many pupils achieved nine or more A* to C grades at GCSE in 2011. The 'value added' scores were off the chart again, which goes to show that you can achieve excellent GCSE results within an academically non-selective school. Our policy of

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 6 October 2011 – 6pm - 8pm

selecting children based upon their behaviour, capping class sizes to just 20 pupils, and providing first rate one to one support where necessary, has given us a massively successful year of development," added Deputy Headteacher Dermod Ruddock.

"We've got a new leadership team in place and the key appointments we've made has re-energized the school. Most of all though Moorland School is about 'Passion for Learning'.

"I want my teachers to be passionate about the school, passionate about their subjects and passionate about teaching children. By having that passion in the school, the children will be invigorated and inspired and will want to work and succeed."

The Principal is also keen to stress that the school has always offered Science as three separate subjects at GCSE – pointing out that this opens the doors which remain closed to students studying for a general science qualification.

"Doing the individual sciences – Physics, Chemistry and Biology – is really important if you want to study medicine, veterinary, or indeed to further your education at A Level within a chosen science. Apparently some schools do not offer the three separate sciences, and this should be a question that every parent should ask."

"We can now offer 17 GCSE courses, including Drama, Business Studies and Home Economics, which are on the syllabus for the first time."

Set in spacious and scenic 15-acre grounds in Clitheroe with outlooks across the Ribble Valley and Clitheroe Castle, Moorland

caters for youngsters from nursery age to 16, with boarding as well as day places available for those aged 10 to 16.

Moorland School spent £1.8 million in developing a new state-of-the-art senior building in 2010, and Mr Harrison has announced his intention to invest a further £1.5 million into the development of new sporting and science facilities within the next two years, this includes the creation of three professional 3G pitches.

"It's all about creating the right environment for children to thrive, grow in confidence, achieve the best results possible and become useful and valued members of society," said Jonathan.

"We select our children on behaviour not on academic ability, so we've created the right learning environment for them to succeed.

"You don't hear our teachers shouting at children, they use humour and rapport instead and that creates a calmer environment." ■



NEW SPORTS SIGNING

Moorland School has added an important signing to their sports department for the new term.

Clare Rennox, a former British Schools Gymnastic champion will be in charge of the PE Department.

Clare, who has also taught at the City of London School for Girls, said: "My passion is gymnastics, so I'm very keen to promote that. It is a great new challenge and one I'm really looking forward to."

Moorland already has an outstanding reputation for its Elite Football Programme, led by UEFA qualified coach Charlie Jackson.

"There will be an exciting new development within the next term, when we will be officially announcing a link with a Premier League club," said Headmaster Jonathan Harrison.



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