

19 December 2019



HOWDEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr G Cannon

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of our first term of the academic year 2019–2020, I thought that you might appreciate an update on a number of issues that we have been engaged with over the past few months.

Our work fundraising and engaging with external partners has again moved forward at pace. In November, we raised over £670 from a non-uniform day and a cake sale for Children in Need. We are also thrilled with the support provided for the Howden Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. It is so fitting that staff and pupils, supported by their parents/carers, come together to make a wonderful contribution to those less fortunate than ourselves. This year, staff and pupils will be delivering multiple hampers to our chosen local charities. The spirit of Christmas is truly alive in Howden.

I am delighted to announce that we have secured £50,000 of funding from The Consortium Academy Trust (TCAT) for a new suite of toilets and washroom facilities. The toilets will be state of the art having individual private cubicles with floor to ceiling toilet doors, coupled with new communal handwashing areas. Having had our designs accepted and funding agreed, we are working with the contractors to arrange fitting at a time when it does not impact on the running of the school. I look forward to announcing more capital building projects with TCAT in the new term.

In September 2019 we were awarded the Music Mark in recognition for the value we place on music. We received a glowing report, which is summarised by the following quote, “We would like to thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues do to ensure that pupils at your school are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education. Your dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated.” Our continued investment into Music and Drama, demonstrates that we value what the Arts can add to the education of our young people.

Over the October half term holiday, Ms Brownlee and I were invited to lead an education delegation to visit Beijing and Tianjin by the Confucius Institute based at the University of Hull. The purpose of our visit was to gain a greater understanding of the Chinese education system and forge links with the Tianjin University and many of the schools in the local districts. The trip was an inspiration to us all and it was a privilege to visit so many high performing education establishments that work in a completely different way to ours. Having signed an agreement with the Confucius Institute, we are now planning to host our own Mandarin Chinese teacher at the school to further enhance our language and cultural offer to students both in our school and in our partner schools.

In November we were delighted to be contacted by The Humber Local Enterprise Partnership with some great news. It was confirmed that the school has been awarded the Quality in Careers Standard for a second time. The report said “There is some excellent practice at Howden School, particularly the way in which careers education is viewed holistically, with curriculum links to careers, a strong

work experience model and a growing programme of employer input. There is an enthusiastic and committed team of staff working alongside the Careers Leader to embed careers in the different curriculum areas.”

Over the years we have worked hard to develop worthwhile working relationships with local companies who give the pupils the invaluable opportunity to experience the world of work. In Year 11 the students and staff worked closely with local businesses and colleges who offer their expertise and knowledge to assist with Post-16 careers and training opportunities and support mock interviews. If you are a local business and are willing to support the education of the students at Howden School please get in touch via the school office email.

Over the last term there have been lots of new additions in regards in our House System. We have appointed a Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies, held student interviews for the roles of House/School Leaders and Captains and finally appointed a member of staff for each of our Houses to support our students and house events. Huge Congratulations to the new Heads of House Mr Marshall (Johnson), Miss Davies (Simmonds), Mr Hopkin (Turing), Mr Gardiner (Mandela) and Miss Simons (Wilberforce). Our students have been involved in the designing of our house logos and we are hoping to have these finalised in the New Year. The students have also raised the importance of supporting our community so we will also have a linked local charity from January. There are lots of exciting opportunities over the next year to be involved with house events which will generate some competition between the houses. One of the events that will run in the Spring Term is ‘Howden’s House of Games’. Students should keep their eye out for information through their tutors and House assemblies on how to get involved. We will also keep you posted of events through social media.

Can I please remind you that all students should have a school bag every day and bring at least a pen, pencil, ruler and eraser. Full school uniform is a crucial way we make a statement about the importance of learning and pride in children’s achievements so your continued support with this is greatly appreciated. The Christmas break is a good time to replenish school equipment and review school uniform.

I would also like to add in some reminders for January and the early part of February:

- School re-opens to students on Tuesday 7 January
- Deep Learning Day 3 – Wednesday 15 January
- Year 10 Physics Mock
- Year 11 Chemistry Mock – Tuesday 21 January
- Year 10 Parents/Carers Evening – Tuesday 21 January
- Year 11 English Mock Wednesday 29 and Friday 31 January
- Week commencing Monday 3 February – House Assemblies
- Language Speaking Mocks – Monday 3 to Friday 14 February
- School closes for half term break- Friday 14 February

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from everyone in Team Howden.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G Cannon
Headteacher