



Howden
School



Howden School
Derwent Road
Howden
DN14 7AL
Tel 01430 430448

office@howdenschool.net

www.howdenschool.net

10 November 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

The mock exams for year 11 continue to go well. We have been very impressed by the mature attitude of our students, not only in the exams themselves but in their preparation in the lead up to them. They finish on Tuesday so a huge thank you for support if you have a child in year 11, it has made all the difference.

Attendance has improved this week which is pleasing as I was getting quite concerned the week before the half term, especially on the Thursday. The next day, we had a fantastic day at Wolfreton School where all staff from TCAT were together; it was an excellent event. When we were all together in the atrium, I looked around the hundreds of staff all of whom hold such a wide range of roles in schools and in our central services offices. It was quite a moving experience and made me feel very humble to be part of such an excellent team. The keynote speaker was exceptionally good - which is not necessarily always the case - as were all the workshop sessions so it was a very positive and inspirational end to the first half of the term.

The school has organised a wreath for Remembrance Day, signed by one of our Head Students Izzy Speer. We also held a 2-minute silence today, and I was very impressed by the atmosphere around the whole school. It is important that young people remember the sacrifices people have made in the past, as history helps to form our future.

As you know I believe that punctuality is important and so I am pleased to say that almost all students get to lessons on time and some even earlier. For those few who are struggling, we have set up a mentoring programme with SLT with each one of us being responsible for three of four students. So far it has had a positive impact, much of the work we are doing is centred around students being organised, so that they make the best use of the time they have in lessons.

Next week Senior Leaders are going to be carrying out some work scrutiny, looking in particular at the quality of work of students at different attendance levels. The second section of this will then be sitting down with the students and asking them to talk us through what is working well with them and where they may need additional support so that we can aim for excellence, as it is one of our three core values. I always find these sessions to be enlightening so I am very much looking forward to them.

On Thursday evening we had the Careers Fair in the hall which I am really pleased to say was well attended. There was a good range of providers in attendance, and it was good to overhear such positive discussions taking place. There are so many options available to young people these days and whilst online is a good source to investigate, I personally don't think there is anything to beat talking to someone.

For those of you who had a child in year 11 last year, just a reminder that our Awards Evening is on Thursday 23 November 2023 at 6.30pm at The Howden Minster.

Some advanced notice of our school charity's upcoming event, a Festive Bingo night on Thursday 30th November. As well as raising vital funds for Teenage Cancer Trust, one of the aims of "A Shining Light" is to boost social inclusion and promote positive well-being, something this seasonal event certainly applies to. Doors open at 6.15pm and the ticket price includes a jacket potato with filling served in the main canteen at 6.30pm before five games of bingo which will commence from 7pm onwards. Tickets can be purchased via the following link - [Christmas Bingo Ticket | A Shining Light](#)

Finally, you will have received a communication from TCAT regarding my staying on as Headteacher. It means that we can continue to move ahead our improvement plans and look further into the future regarding a number of initiatives. I continue to thoroughly enjoy my role at Howden and see it is a real privilege to lead a school with so much potential. I am very grateful to you as parents and carers for your support as I am to staff, students, and our central services team and all the other Headteachers in TCAT.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Nixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher