



Howden
School



Howden School

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Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a long half-term but whilst many other counties are on half term break this week, we will have a slightly shorter run up to Christmas. After a rather hectic end to last week, it was good to see year 11 students treat their exams so seriously, with a strong work ethic evident right from the first exams. I was impressed with the buzz in the dining hall when they were all getting ready for English and that continued throughout the week. There is a lot of catching up to do but it is a very positive end to the half term.

It was also very pleasing to be told that the Year 10 RE exam went well with the students being very well behaved. The atmosphere in the Key Stage 3 canteen, where we bring students all together as part of the routine before the exam, was good. It is here where we brief them on expectations then the relevant head of department goes through strategies on how to approach the paper giving them some last-minute reminders. It is a process I inherited and was very pleased with, so it has remained untouched. Although there has been a number of changes to the school since I arrived, there are also a number of processes and procedures that have remained the same.

Amongst a number of different areas we are providing for students to use at social time, we are looking to open a year 11 study area to support them in their work over the rest of the year. This was raised at my meeting with senior students last week and I think is a particularly good idea. It is not a large area so it will probably be a bookable space for quiet study.

In my learning walks looking at work ethic, I have also been pleased with year 7 and year 8 students in lessons as well as other year groups. Our students are certainly engaging with our "courtesy" value, and I have to say that year 7 are quite exceptional in this area. My thanks to parents for your support in promoting and upholding our new values.

The nights are getting darker, especially when daylight saving time ends at 2am on Sunday 29th and the clocks go back. In closing I hope you have a great half term and that you all stay safe as we enter winter. I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 6th November, ready to learn and attend school every single day.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Nixon
Headteacher