



Howden
School



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

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23 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, my thanks to you as parents and carers for sending your child into school regularly and for them arriving at lessons on time. When I walk around the school, either on my own or with visitors, I see calm lessons and students engaged in their learning. This is what schools are all about and it is what you as parents expect; and quite rightly so. Since I became Headteacher nearly twenty years ago now, I have always said that no one has the right to disrupt or interfere within another student's learning, so much of our behaviour policy is based around that very premise.

To encourage punctuality for some students and provide a definitive point of lateness we have now introduced some additional bells. Currently we have a five-minute warning bell for the start of line up (ACE period) in the morning, end of break and end of lunchtime which gives students time to get to lessons. These will continue, however for movement between periods one and two, two and three and periods five and six, there is now a new bell four minutes after the change of lesson bell that means everyone should now be in their next lesson. This gives enough time for movement and a definitive time in which to log lateness. Students not in the classroom when the bell goes will receive sanction unless they have a note from a member of staff. Having everyone in the classroom at the start of the lesson will mean that all students will gain maximum learning time.

There will be various strategies used to support those few students who are not punctual including; a late awareness course with myself that runs for up to three sessions, parental meetings to discuss any issues and ways forward and detentions. It is also worth noting that from the start of next week, any students who decides to truant from lessons will receive an after-school detention that evening with parents being informed as soon as the decision is made. We will also contact parents in the event of a child not being in lesson if we cannot find them on site as they will then be deemed missing. I would like to again reiterate that almost all of our students are punctual to lessons and work hard therefore the sanctions are to not only support and encourage the handful of students who are not on time or who may choose not to attend a lesson, but those who are in lessons.

Again, to support the significant majority of students who wear our school uniform with pride, we will be challenging those few who are not being compliant. Just to reiterate, students should be wearing a shirt and tie, over which there should be a school jumper or blazer (for years seven and eight) and a coat if needed. There should be no sweatshirts, hoodies, or zipped hoodies as they are not part of the school uniform. I realise that when it is cold and wet students will wear additional layers of clothing however these must comply with the uniform policy that has been in place for some years now. Parents of the few who have not been complying have been supportive when contacted personally about any breaches of the policy so my thanks to everyone for helping us to maintain the high standards we expect. I remember many years ago when I was challenged by some students who said that what you wore did not impact on what people thought of you or the reputation of the school so the next assembly I took, I walked in wearing a T shirt and jeans. There was an audible gasp and I simply said "see, I told you it mattered" then walked out.

Year 11 mock exams are now complete, the findings of which will give us an up-to-date picture of where students are regarding their progress. There is still time for some revision and hard work, it is never too

late, but the actual exams are now very close. As a parent it may become stressful time for your child, they may not even show it, so often it is just about “being there” for them and listening.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher

Future events:

- 29 February – TCAT Learner Conference
- 4 March – Year 9 Parents Evening
- W/C 4 March – Year 11 Practical food exams
- 8 March – Year 10 Taster Day at Selby College