



Howden
School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare to move to Arbor for behaviour in September, the school will be testing this over the coming weeks. Although as parents you will not be able to see this on Arbor yet, we have found that what we input into Arbor links to the activity in Classcharts. I would like to reassure you that it will not affect your child's behaviour record, and this will be removed after the testing is completed. It is important that we do this so that come September, the new process runs as smoothly as possible.

Thursday was Year 11 leaver's assembly, and I would like to congratulate the year group on how they conducted themselves. They had their English language paper in the morning then went to the sports hall for shirt signing then into the hall for the assembly. It was a fantastic morning where they worked hard in the exam then thoroughly enjoyed themselves signing their shirts. Various awards were given out then we showed some old photographs, something that goes down well every year. It does show us how quickly they grow and how time goes by very quickly. As we mentioned in a previous communication, the hoodies will be distributed following the Physics exam on Friday 14th June, and this will be the last year of hoodies. A reminder that maths calculator paper 3 is on Monday morning.

For your information the evening of the 28th of November is the year 11 awards ceremony in the Minster and I would encourage as many year 11 students and parents to attend. It was a fantastic event last year and so a couple of hours out of your evening to celebrate your child's achievements is time well spent.

This week we had a geography field trips to the City of York. I am a great believer in field work especially for subjects like geography as it is all around us. One of our aims here is not just to teach geography but also turn the students into geographers. That way students see geography wherever they go and look at their surroundings very differently.

We have carried out a number of learner walks recently so your child may have commented about my presence in the classroom. The process is detailed and whilst different to what some other schools may do, in my experience it is very successful. It begins with a conversation around the curriculum using the new documents that we have produced alongside some book looks and meeting with students. We then build up a picture of what we expect in the learner walk – which for interest, is totally focused on the student – then along with the curriculum leader, we go into the lesson. At the end there is a discussion with the curriculum leader, and we put together a professional development programme to address any issue that emerge. Anything that runs through different departments will be including in our new School Development Plan for September 2024. Learner walks take place on a rolling programme throughout the academic year.

There is a new attendance policy from the DfE and so I have attached a summary of the key points from the new legislation for your information. It comes into operation when we return in September.

In attendance this week, my congratulations to the top year groups which are:

Monday	Year 11	95.7%
Tuesday	Year 8	94%
Wednesday	Year 8	93.6%
Thursday	Year 7	94.7%

Friday Year 10 91%

Have a good weekend.

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 of the name.

Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher

Up and coming events.

- GCSE's Continue
- W/C 17 June – Year 10 mocks commence
- 17 June TCAT Marketing photos
- 17 and 20 June Geography Field trips
- 26 June London Trip