



**Howden**  
School



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17 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been very pleased with the way our year 11 have conducted themselves in exams. On Friday and again on Monday, when there was the whole year group in the canteen, they sat with their revision notes and were attentive during my brief words and for the curriculum leader following me. What I have been impressed with is the positive outlook from students, both before and after the exams. A few students said to me that they were fine as they had been through the processes a few times before when doing mock exams, so they were just going through the same routine. Most have really stepped up so thank you for your support. We are running revision sessions for students, and they have been given a timetable of when they are taking place. Just a reminder regarding Year 11 attendance, we expect all students to stay in school after their exams until the leaving date of 6 June 2024.

Rachel Davies was in school Thursday morning to look at our SEND provision. She is Headteacher of Oakfield School who has recently joined the trust as part of the strategic plan to strengthen support in special needs. She met with Mrs Stephenson and myself then spoke to some students and walked around the school. We have moved forward in SEND with the next phase of development being to strengthen the curriculum and our pedagogy in the classroom.

The field looked great on Monday when it was dry and sunny – though it does seem a long time ago now - with groups of students sat around enjoying the weather, eating, and chatting. We will be looking at raising funds for benches to make this an even more enjoyable experience as in conversation with some students, most of whom were girls, they are really enjoying the space. The current weather hasn't helped as we were planning to open the main field for KS4 so here's hoping for next week.

We had 20 applications for the Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum) role, and I am pleased to say that Lisa Tester was appointed after an intense and rigorous day. There were a number of interviews including the student panel, a tour of the school with Mrs Doyle and various tasks. The final panel was Lizann Lowson (CEO), Mark Brown (Executive Director of Education) Louise Blackburn (HR) and me. Lisa will bring with her a real energy and experience of developing the curriculum in schools in Hull and her expertise as an English teacher. It was a very important appointment for the school and how we will move forward in what I have said before is the most crucial aspect of our school improvement plan. It is a very exciting time, and I am confident she will make a significant positive impact to your child's education.

In attendance this week, the top year groups are:

Monday	Year 11	96.9%
Tuesday	Year 8	96.6%
Wednesday	Year 8	96.5%
Thursday	Year 11	96.9%
Friday	Year 11	99.2%

Year 11's attendance has increased significantly as a result of their GCSE exams. Recently Year 8 have been doing very well in attendance most days.

Our girls football team played very well in Humberside Cup and came back from being 4-0 down eventually losing 5-4. It was a great achievement to get to the final so my congratulations to them. It was pleasing to

hear about their determination and spirit to come back from 4 goals down; that is quite an achievement showing great character and resilience. An important part of sport is being dressed correctly, recently there has been an increase in the number of students attending PE without the correct kit. Can I please ask for your support in ensuring your child does bring the appropriate kit for PE lessons and my thanks to the vast majority that do.

Have an enjoyable 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.

Mr Jim Nixon  
Headteacher

Future events:

GCSEs continue

24 June – Break up for May half term

03 June – School reopens

06 and 07 June – Geography field trips