



Howden
School



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I have been showing potential candidates for the Deputy Headteacher post around the school and the feedback has been very positive. They have commented on the strong relationships between staff and students, seen through interactions in corridors and classrooms, and the calm atmosphere as well. Such snippets are useful on a personal note because as a Headteacher, and this has been the same regardless of the school I have been working in, you are constantly wanting better regardless of the progress that has been made. Candidates also can compare to their own experiences as well. I am hopeful we will get a strong field given the number of visits and applications we have had already. Curriculum is one of our key areas for school improvement, so it is an exciting post for the right candidate. Although the successful candidate won't officially start until September, the fact is they will be immediately involved in the curriculum work we have planned for this academic term. As I have alluded to before, we are not only going through the curriculum in every single subject of the school but also looking at how we assess student progress and then report to you as parents. It is a major piece of work ready for September.

This afternoon, Mark Brown (Executive Director of Education) has been in school to have a look into lessons and discuss how we are progressing as a school. Given his experience and success as a Headteacher, I value his opinion greatly. We discussed where we can look for support in the coming months, some of it in preparation for September. At the end of this term, all the trust schools will be using Arbor for data and that includes behaviour, so we will be getting support from the new MIS manager in the trust to build the behaviour module. The school has used Classcharts for a number of years now, so it is a big piece of work. I will keep you updated as the work progresses, and as we trial the new system before launching it for the whole school.

My thanks to year 9 parents and carers for completing the guided choice form. There has already been a number of conversations with students and those will continue, especially for students who are unsure or whose initial choices may need some clarification. The students will undoubtedly reap the benefit in year 11, not only through having more lessons a week in their guided choice subjects over two years but also a considerably stronger curriculum.

Year 7 students have been attending well recently so my congratulations to them and let's keep in going. Year 11 have developed a good work ethic - a number of our students already had that ethic but it is pleasing to see a whole year group pull together - so it is important that this continues right up to their very last exam. In my drop-ins to lessons I have seen some good work from year 8 students and our current year 10 bode well for next year's outcomes. When I was interviewed for this role, I emphasised that Key Stage 3 was a really important time in a child's school career hence a large percentage of our curriculum work is focused on years 7, 8 and 9. Key Stage 4 is getting an equal amount of attention but not to the detriment of the lower year groups.

Have an enjoyable bank holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher

Future events:
06 May Bank Holiday
10 May AM GCSEs start