



**Howden**  
School



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19 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

For year 11, we are another week closer to the exams with the first full exam (Combined Biology) being just two weeks away on the 10<sup>th</sup> May quickly followed by English Literature the following Monday. Every single bit of extra revision or additional support counts in every exam, regardless of how many students are sitting it, so let us all still aim to make a difference to support your child who will be faced with a number of papers in a short period of time. We are currently looking at a leaving date for year 11 and I will write to parents shortly regarding the date and plans.

As you may well know, we now have a new one-way system which came from one of our staff working groups. We are an old 1960s building - when quite frankly schools were so different, they would be unrecognisable – which doesn't lend itself well to how schools operate in this era. The whole aim is to make movement around the school easier and a more fluent experience. We have over 700 students all moving at once and some corridors are too narrow to cope with it. Students are getting used to it and as always, we are evaluating as we go along and will undoubtedly make some amendments.

With the summer term now underway and with good weather hopefully on the horizon we will be opening the field once it has dried up. As from Monday, we will be going back to having the area behind science and maths out of bounds at breaks and lunchtimes, so the only time students should be out there is at movement time. We will also be using the large playing field when we can (weather dependant) which will give a considerable amount of extra space for students at lunchtime.

On Tuesday we had our Local Governing Body meeting where there were a number of items on the agenda. These meetings are always a mixture of information sharing, support, and challenge. What is key to the role of a governor is coming into school and seeing the school as it is. On Wednesday, the Chinese choir performed at Hull University in the Chinese Whispers Concert, which showcases local schools and Chinese performers as part of the work of the Confucious Institute. The students were a credit to the school.

We are continuing to focus on the curriculum so on Monday afternoon there was a presentation to our curriculum leaders. Mr O'Brien, who is a member of our Trust's school improvement team and is a curriculum specialist, focused on the curriculum development work that has already taken place in core subjects and is now expanding out to other subjects. The completed documentation, which is the end result of a series of activities, will be used for a variety of purposes including up to date information for parents and carers. I will keep you informed as this develops over the coming weeks.

The Year 9 taster sessions went well with positive feedback from the many students who attended. This year, with only 3 choices to be made will inevitably see some changes to how KS4 is structured for September, and I am confident the new model will have a positive impact on lessons and

outcomes. A letter is going home to year 9 parents and carers this afternoon with an online form to be completed for those guided choice subjects. Can I please draw your attention to the dates that are on the form?

I hope you have a great 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:

- 19 April - Guided choice collection begins
- W/C 22 April - GCSE 3D design practical
- W/C 29 April - Textiles exam