



Howden
School



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy first week of the summer term, even though the weather sometimes felt more like winter. I look forward to some good dry weather and being able to open the fields so that our students can enjoy more space at breaks and lunchtimes.

We were straight into year 8 parents' evening which was a positive event and well attended so my thanks to the many parents and carers who turned up to talk with staff. The year group are on the verge of year 9 when they will start thinking of their guided choices, so this term is a crucial consolidation time in all their subjects. As I have said countless times to year 11 students over many years, your outcomes are as a result of five years' work not two so every lesson you attend and concentrate in will pay dividends in a few years' time. As adults, we sometimes find ourselves wondering "where the time has gone" so school life is about making the most of every day.

Overall year 11 have returned in a positive frame of mind and I have been impressed when calling into lessons. This week, their attendance has also been much better which will help. Again, it is about getting as much as we can out of every single minute before the exams. There continues to be additional support for the year group, both during school and after to help boost their grades. It's now a very serious time with exams just weeks away. The feedback from the MFL exams has been positive I am pleased to say.

Next week, a focus is Guided Choice for our year 9 students. This is the start of what I refer to as "engineering the school." By that I mean getting students into the right subjects for them based on as much knowledge and understanding that we can acquire so that they enjoy the subject and are committed to it. As year 9 parents will know, next week will see taster lessons happening in lessons for subjects plus after school sessions on Wednesday. There is more information in the brochure that we distributed at the year 9 evening just before the end of term.

Your child may have noticed the Corridor Policy on display around the school and next week we launch the one-way system. This is to ease the flow of students at change over time and I am sure they will soon get used to it. We now have movement time which has had a significant impact on punctuality meaning lessons can start on time and with real purpose. In relation to lessons, we are continuing to work with middle leaders our curriculum plans, a very good piece of work being led by Jamie O'Brien from our school improvement team, a name I have mentioned a few times before.

Yours faithfully

Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher

Future events

- 17 April – Year 9 Taster Sessions
- 15 and 16 April – Year11 Art exam