



**Howden**  
School



THE CONSORTIUM  
ACADEMY TRUST

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Our new approach to year 11 parents' evening came across as a success but to gain a greater insight into how we can improve it next time, we are sending out a short questionnaire to parents and carers. It was good to see so many parents attend, quite an increase from previous evenings. For those of you who don't have children in year 11, we ran a series of revision sessions on a rota for English, maths and science which included parents as well. In between these sessions, and either side, parents could meet teachers from other subjects. There was also a "tutoring" session for some parents too. The informal feedback we received suggested quite a few parents liked the new approach, but we will wait to see the feedback from the questionnaire and staff views as well.

Guided choice evening was exceptionally well attended, it was great to see so many people there for the launch of our new process and structure for Key Stage 4. In my introduction I talked about the curriculum and teaching and learning being the foundations of a school and that much of the work often goes unseen to those not involved. I related it to a house is being built where very little seems to be happening but if you look closely, that is when the foundations are being put down that will hold the building in good stead. Then, fairly quickly, the house is complete. In September, the additional lesson for each of the subjects a student will choose, along with the work that is being done on the curriculum, will provide a strong basis for improved quality of education and improved outcomes.

Asia Enrichment Day on Wednesday had our Year 7 students learning about Japanese and Chinese Culture with taiko, origami, manga, calligraphy, singing and martial arts workshops. In the canteen at lunchtime students also had the chance to sample the delights cooked kitchen staff. A fabulous team effort and enjoyed by all that took part in the day.

Our first non-uniform day since I have been Headteacher was a success so a huge thanks to the Leadership Senate for all the time and effort they spent planning the event and, indeed, getting me to agree. It was not easy. As you know, they wrote the letter you received and also communicated with staff alongside presenting in assembly about what would be taking place and their expectations. My thanks to all parents and carers for your support in what is an important fund-raising event. Along with lessons as normal and our usual end of term rewards, it made for a very good end to term.

Yours faithfully

Mr Jim Nixon  
Headteacher

Future events:

- 08 April – School re-opens
- 09 April – Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 17 April – Year 9 Taster Sessions