



Howden
School



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Howden School
Derwent Road
Howden
DN14 7AL
Tel 01430 430448

office@howdenschool.net

www.howdenschool.net

15 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday we had Mark Brown in school. Mark was appointed Executive Director for Education in December, having been Headteacher of Winifred Holtby School in Hull so he is well known to colleague Headteachers. He has been going round all our secondary schools, so it was a great pleasure to go into lessons throughout the morning. He commented on how calm the school was and how students were engaged in their learning. Students were confident when describing what they were learning and were able to articulate how it linked to prior learning which was very pleasing as this is something we have been working on recently. After Easter he will be in school every two weeks, looking to support us and share good practice.

Jamie O'Brien (Director of Improvement and Standards) is continuing his work with curriculum leaders on our curriculum plans. He is in school every Friday and so is working through one department at a time. It is a project he is doing in some of our other schools and we are all finding it invaluable. The curriculum, as I have said before, is at the very heart of a school so it has to be right. Running alongside the curriculum is the assessment where we highlight what our expectations are for students to have achieved at each stage of the curriculum. Although it can be quite time consuming, having Jamie's input is really speeding up the process and I have no doubt that it will have a significant positive impact from September onwards when it is all in place.

We recently received news that further funding has been agreed to refurbish and decorate some more classrooms in the school, which alongside some other site work that will be taking place, is another step forward with our plan to overhaul our school environment. The work done so far has helped lift the environment, so I am pleased that it is continuing. Sometimes, small changes make a big difference like the magnetic door retainers that hold doors open - which helps with student movement at lesson change over - but automatically close when the fire alarm goes off.

Our Year 11 parents' evening on Monday is going to be one of the most important evenings for parents and carers of that year group so please make sure you come along. I took an assembly on Monday to help motivate them and thank those who had worked really hard and received good mock results. For those who hadn't put the time and effort in, I used the quote by the author CS Lewis who said "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." Plans are in place to support individual students to make the most of every minute we have between now and the exams so my thanks to parents for your support in encouraging them to do their very best. The grades students get this year they will carry with them for the rest of their lives and the gap between a grade can be as little as six marks so they should keep on studying, especially in the evenings and weekends. After all, that's what students in all the other schools will be doing.

The leadership Senate (Senior students) have put together a plan for our Red Nose fundraising day next Friday so you will receive a signed letter from them all in the next couple of days. They are also writing to staff and will be holding assemblies next week. They will be outlining expectations for the day around appropriate clothing and behaviour plus all the different events that will be taking place at break and lunchtimes. I am looking forward to it, a mixture of fun and fundraising whilst lessons carry on as normal. I

would ask for your support in explain to your child that the day is being run by the leadership senate and so they should support what they are doing in every way they can.

I look forward to seeing parents and carers of Year 9 students at the Guided Choices launch event, which starts at 6pm.

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 of the name.

Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher

Future events:

- 18 March – Year 11 Parents’ Evening
- 20 March – Asia day
- 20 March – Year 9 Parent/Carer Launch event regarding Guided Choices at 6pm
- 22 March – Fundraising day for Red Nose Day
- 22 March – Break up for Easter