



Howden
School



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Dear parents and carers,

It doesn't seem that long ago when the academic year began and here we are, two weeks away from the end of term. We have had a very good term where there has been continued improvement and my intention is that continues right up until the end of school Friday 20th.

My congratulations to the students who received a Golden ticket for excellent attendance recently. At present, 21.1% of our students have 100% attendance and 42% are on 95-99%. My congratulations to each and every one of them. When you look at the days of the week, Fridays are our worst day (93.3%), and Tuesdays are our best (94.3%). Friday learning is just as important as Tuesday learning. Our students are brilliant and can achieve so much at Howden if they attend.

In assemblies this week we have been talking about the importance of punctuality. Our new one-way system is working, the corridors are calm and that inevitably helps with the quality of education in lessons. Our expectation is that students move to the next lesson in a calm and purposeful manner. I have been talking to staff about the importance of giving positives for students who attend regularly, arrive punctually and work hard. This is the vast majority of our students and my thanks to parents for instilling those values. Personally, I see being late as disrespectful to those you keep waiting which is why we introduced 5 minutes movement time. We tested it out and everyone can get to the next lesson well within the 5 minutes given as we are a small school. As from Monday, to support the students who arrive on time then have to wait, anyone who does not arrive at the next lesson by the time the 2nd bell goes, there will be an automatic sanction. If they are not punctual due to a member of staff speaking to them, they will be given a written note. In January we are launching the student Arbor app so that they can monitor their own point awards and behaviour incidents. On this theme, can I also take this opportunity to say that blazers in KS3 are compulsory, again to those few students who are not complying.

With regards to the Quality of Education, we held some professional development sessions yesterday evening. Two of the workshop sessions I suspect would be of particular interest to parents those being "Student Rewards" and "Marking & Feedback." In the student rewards session, it was about praising and rewarding students who regularly do well and attend school. In the marking & feedback session, under the heading "The Howden Way" we are introducing an approach that is used by the English department, but with adaptability for some subjects. We are also simplifying our KS3 assessment criteria and process, we will let you know more detail by separate communication.

On Thursday there is a year 11 parents' evening. I have emphasised with staff that as time is limited, the discussion should be solely focused on their progress. I look forward to seeing you there and please feel free to come and have a conversation with me as I walk around.

SLT surgery for parents and carers is available every Wednesday from 3.30 – 5.30. If you would like to speak to us about a concern that you feel has not been dealt with to your satisfaction, please make an appointment using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/sGjzbEHWCr>

Attendance this week

Monday	Year 7	97.54%
Tuesday	Year 10	96.24%
Wednesday	Year 9	93.48%
Thursday	Year 7	95.9%
Friday	Year 7	95.9%

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr Jim Nixon
Headteacher

Future events:

- Thursday 12 December – Y11 Parents' evening
- Friday 20 December – Break up for Christmas