



**Howden**  
School



THE CONSORTIUM  
ACADEMY TRUST

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31 January 2025

Dear parents and carers,

There was very good attendance at the year 11 maths masterclass on Tuesday after school, the format being fairly similar to English. Again, it is good to see the support of students at those sessions and also the staff who run them. We all know that in exams 1% is the difference between grades and every little bit of additional support alongside quality first teaching will make a difference. It is also cumulative, so every lesson missed slows down progress.

This academic year parents' evenings have been extremely positive showing the support we have from you all and the community. It is much appreciated as attending them could make all the difference. The year 7 evening is next Thursday, and we are all looking forward to it. The culture of the year group is quite phenomenal, hardworking, and very courteous. I would also the same for other year groups as well, but I do confess that year 7 have taken it to a different level.

Just for your information, a member of Senior Leadership Team is now at reception first thing to check on students who are late to school in the morning.

We do a lot of rewards for students so that we encourage them to be the best they can be. At Howden our policy foundation is 'first attention for best conduct'. We believe it is pivotal to recognise and reward our students through our key values of aspiration, courtesy and excellence. You will have seen a slight change in the visual representation on the parent and student ARBOR app in terms of 'learner point awards', 'TUTOR ACE Point Awards and 'Learner engagement'.

Students are rewarded for attending each lesson, preparation, uniform and what happens in and outside of the classroom. We have recently added an 'above and beyond' point award. By implementing these diverse recognition and reward strategies, our school ensures that students who consistently demonstrate positive attitudes, good learning habits, and behaviour aligned with our values feel valued and motivated to continue their exemplary efforts.

The student ARBOR app has been launched this week during ACE period and more information regarding the reward store will be shared in the coming weeks.

In relation to sanctions, we have lunchtime and after school detentions. Our extension of detentions started this week where the pastoral team supervise an after-school session each night of the week. A further sanction for those who continue to not follow school policies is an SLT detention on Friday evenings for any students who don't attend detention. This is part of our behaviour policy. I believe that consistency is key and so when students require a sanction, it will be carried out. We always hope this is rare and will provide support where required. It is also part of the legal framework and whilst it might be inconvenient for some parents, it is part of your child being at Howden school. We also do this in the interest of the vast majority of students who worked extremely hard and behave well. I thank you in advance for your support.

Lizann Lawson (CEO) had a walk round the school with Lisa Tester (Deputy Headteacher) on Wednesday afternoon going into some individual lessons including English and technology. Beforehand we talked at length about where we are as a school and all the progress we have made. Today I had a walk around with Sarah Warnes (Chair of Governors) and we saw a calm purposeful school – on a wet Friday.

Just for information, we have put a draft RSE policy on our website for those parents who may be interested, this can be found on the PSHE Curriculum page on our website.


Reminder that a 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	97.2%
Tuesday	Year 7	97.2%
Wednesday	Year 7	96.8%
Thursday	Year 10	97.7%
Friday	Year 10	96.2%

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr Jim Nixon  
Headteacher

**Future events:**

- Thursday 6 February - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Friday 7 February - Year 11 Poetry visit
- W/C Monday 10 February - Year 11 Mocks start
- Friday 14 February - Break up for half-term