



Howden
School



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

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5 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a joy to see our students back in school this week. They've settled in brilliantly and are already getting back into the rhythm of The Howden Way. For anyone who was absent, all the key information has been uploaded to the student shared area so they can catch up easily.

I just wanted to share a few updates with you as we start the year together:

A Fresh Look Around School

We've been busy over the summer making improvements, so the site feels even more welcoming. Classrooms and shared areas have had a refresh, the Key Stage 4 canteen has been upgraded, we've added digital screens to share daily messages, and there's more outdoor seating for students to enjoy at break and lunch.

Lunchtime News

Our new catering company, Caterlink, has already been a big hit! Their menus are fresh, healthy and full of choice, and it's been great to see students and staff enjoying the new options.

New Faces

We're excited to welcome some new teachers:

- Miss McDougall (Performing Arts)
- Miss Dixon (Technology)
- Miss Pearce (Science)

And a big congratulations to Mrs McEwan, who is now Head of Year 11.

Celebrating Success

We know how important it is to recognise effort as well as achievement. This year we've refreshed our rewards programme, so students can be celebrated not only for academic success but also for kindness, leadership and contributions to our school community. Everyone will also have the chance to work towards our end-of-year Big Day Out trip and academic awards. Students will receive information regarding this in assemblies over the coming weeks.

Getting Organised

Students have made a great start with uniform — thank you for your support with this. To help them stay on track, please make sure they come in each day with:

- A pencil case (2 pens, pencil, ruler, rubber)

- Their new Howden Planner
- A school bag big enough for books, PE kit and equipment

Exercise Books at Home

This year, students will bring their exercise books home every day. This means they can use them for revision and self-study, and you'll also get to see the work they're producing and the feedback they're receiving. We'll give everyone two weeks to get used to this new routine before applying sanctions for forgotten books.

Homework

Homework continues to be set on the Arbor app. Please double-check that your child can log in — either via the app or on a web browser.

Assessments Coming Up

Over the next few weeks:

- Year 7 will complete CATs (Cognitive Abilities Tests)
- KS3 will complete ARTs (reading tests)

There's no preparation needed — they simply help us understand each child's strengths and where we can best support them.

Dates for Your Diary

- 8 Sept – 3 Oct: KS3 ARTs and Year 7 CATs (in IT lessons)
- Thurs 11 Sept: Year 11 GCSE Launch, 5–7pm
- Thurs 11 Sept: School photographs (all years)

We're really looking forward to an exciting year ahead and working with you to make sure every child feels supported, challenged and celebrated. Thank you for everything you do at home to help us make that possible.

From next week you will receive Mr Nixon's usual weekly Newsletter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Tester
Deputy Headteacher