



HOWDEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

17 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of year letter

As we approach the final day of term, I thought I would write to you all to try to draw to a close what has been in many ways a unique year. In my 27 years in education I have never experienced a situation like this but the collegiate ethos that is embodied in Team Howden has meant that we have got through it together.

At present, it is the Department of Education's stated aim that all students will be in school, full time from September. At Howden School we have planned for such a situation. With the announcement from the Department of Education of what schools should put in place to safely open in September we will be working over the summer to put those plans in place. Before we come back to school, I will write to you all explaining the measures we have put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

If the situation changes regarding COVID-19 and, for whatever reason, we are not able to fully open for all students I will contact you all again. I am not anticipating that we will need to do this but as we have seen with the local lockdown of some areas of the country we need to be prepared for all eventualities.

I would like to draw to your attention a number of staff that are leaving Howden School at the end of this academic year. Firstly, Mrs Russell who is the Head of English has chosen that this year will be her last year in the profession and has decided to retire. In her time at Howden School, Mrs Russell has been the consummate professional, her dedication to the students at Howden School is without parallel. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Also leaving us is our science technician, Mrs Stock. Mrs Stock has been the backbone of the Science Department for a many years and no job is too big or too small for her to handle. She is incredibly knowledgeable and understanding about all things science and she will be greatly missed not only by the science staff but also by the wider teaching staff. We wish her well in her retirement.

Also retiring is one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Palmer. We wish her a long and fruitful retirement. Also leaving our teaching assistant team is Ms Hunter who is moving to a new life in West Yorkshire, we wish her all the best in her new career.

Mr Farrow from the Maths Department is also leaving the school. Mr Farrow is moving to Peterborough closer to wear his fiancé is taking up a post in the legal profession. Ms Scott, who has been working with us in Art on a maternity cover is taking up a post as an Art teacher in another East Riding school. We wish them all the best for the future and it is great to see such talent entering and remaining in the profession.

All posts have been filled for September and we look forward to welcoming new staff into the school to support the students.

Whilst the school has being partially open we have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure we are ready for September. During the summer term we have had a number of upgrades in the school. The first of which was a new internet connection with better security and filtering. To make sure we fully capitalized on the faster Internet connection we have installed new wireless capability throughout the school.

Our plan for the new toilets is going ahead and they are being installed at present. This created a major headache for us while the school was open for Year 10s and keyworkers but starting at this time was essential to ensure that the work was finished before we arrive back in September. Below are a few pictures of the initial designs.



We have also been busy replacing a number of carpets in the school, new blinds in a number of classrooms and redecoration in key areas. We have also started a program of changing all of the projectors and white boards in school to flat panels or interactive panels. This will add to the learning experience in those classrooms and over the next few years we will look to replace all of the projectors in the school.

We have also been working to create two new areas in school. The first is our Enhanced Resource Provision, where we will work with students with Autism Spectrum Condition from around the County who need a nurturing, specialist educational environment to flourish and reach their full potential. We have been working hard with the East Riding of Yorkshire County Council and the Educational Inclusion Service in providing this provision for students with an Education Health and Care plan to access. The area created includes a dedicated teaching space as well as a separate multi-sensory room and individual meeting space.

The second new area is our Inclusion Hub. This area has been created as a place where a small number of our students who are finding it hard to engage in all lessons can re-focus on their learning and have the additional support needed to make better progress.

We have a very clear uniform policy, and our expectation is that all students in Years 7 to 11 will adhere fully to that policy at all times, unless emergency circumstances prohibit this. Can I ask Parents/Carers to continue to support the school in ensuring that their children attend school wearing the correct uniform in September. Following the extended period of home-learning, some students may have forgotten what is expected of them regarding uniform. The full policy can be found on our website and I would ask you to refer to this before any new purchases are made for September. I would however like to draw your attention to the following, please ensure that students adhere to these rules from the start of the new term:

Short lycra skirts; skirts should be formal uniform type skirts, sitting no more than just above the knee

Close fitting trousers in lycra/ jean type fabric; smart, tailored uniform type trousers must be worn

Hair should be of a natural colour

Two piercings in ears are allowed but no facial or body piercings

Over the last few weeks, it has been an absolute delight to see the Year 10 students back in school. Their attitude and behaviour has been faultless and they have engaged with learning very well. Their resilience in the face of such daunting adversity has been remarkable and it fills me with hope for September. We know that the school will be a different place in September, and we have taken the many positive elements of our partial opening to build on greater success in September. For example, our students in the time of partial opening have had to work independently and we will capitalise on this in the future. I would like to thank all the students and you as parents and carers in trusting what we have done in the school to keep your children safe.

It has been a real pleasure to welcome so many students into school this week for our wellbeing tutor sessions. In some year groups, 80% of students have attended and it has been lovely to hear the sound of young people talking and laughing and engaging with their tutors. During our wellbeing tutor sessions we have issued all students with a timetable for September. Please be advised that this timetable is provisional and it may be required to change if the situation changes and in turn our response changes. In preparation for September we have been working with the bus companies to discuss planning for the wider opening in September. We are building into plans for the school in September to have an earlier ending of the school day with students leaving at 2.30 pm for most of the students 2.40 pm for some of the students. I will write again to parents and carers at the end of August, start of September to cement our plans for the wider opening in September.

Some important dates

Exam results day- Thursday 20 August

Staff training day- Monday 7 September

School reopens for Year 7 students only- Tuesday 8 September

School open to Y7 and Y11 students only- Wednesday 9 September

School open Y7-Y11-Thursday 10 September

Over the summer, please stay safe and look after each other and we are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school in September. I know a lot of students have been working very hard over this lockdown.

And this is an ideal time to recharge your batteries for the year ahead. If you haven't be working particularly hard now is the chance to start the preparations for September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Cannon', written in a cursive style.

Mr G Cannon
Headteacher

School Return Pledge

SEPTEMBER 2020: *We are really looking forward to welcoming ALL our students and staff back to school.*

Students have a personal and community responsibility to keep themselves and others safe and to maintain a positive attitude and commitment to their learning. With continued support from staff and home, we hope to help them to stay safe and fulfil their aspirations.

Our pledges to Parents and Students:



Guidance

Our practices and risk assessments are informed by official guidance and advice from government and public health and will be kept up to date as guidance evolves.

Social distancing

We have made changes to the physical layout of our school which include one way systems and identified teacher zones. This will impact on movement around the building and learning activities.



Hygiene

Students will be expected and supported to regularly wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds and /or use hand sanitiser which will be provided. Some staff/students may be wearing a face covering and we respect that decision.

Well-being

We will continue to closely monitor the well-being of all of our students, their families and our staff and we encourage you to let us know how we can support you and each other: #BeKind



Curriculum

There will be changes to the expectations and curriculum delivery in some subjects for example in ICT, PE, Music and Science. Students will also be in year group bubbles through the week for their learning, remaining in the same zone for the majority of their studies to limit movement around the building.

Attendance

It is vitally important that students return to a good level of attendance as soon as possible. If you are anxious about our full return, please contact us and we will be happy to talk to you. It is expected that you will attend every day.



Journeys to and from the academy

If you are using academy or public transport you must wear a face covering and place this carefully into a plastic bag when you arrive at the academy. Be considerate of others in the community and walk or cycle to the academy in small groups.



The pledges we ask of you:



Parents

Please do not enter our buildings unless by appointment. Please encourage your child to limit their social contacts outside of school to improve infection control in line with government guidance.



Health

Please stay away from school if you're unwell or you have COVID-19 symptoms.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



Shared commitment to learning

Over the coming weeks and months, your child may be identified as requiring additional support for their learning and progress. Please support our actions to ensure your child realises their academic and social aspirations.

Disclaimer: *If we need to update this guidance, we will communicate with you through our usual methods.*

