



# HOWDEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

11 September 2020

Good Evening,

I write to you this evening at the end of our first week back. It has been a different start to our academic year in so many ways. I am delighted to share that the atmosphere in school has been excellent and there has been a real buzz of excitement around the school. The students have looked smart, conducted themselves with maturity and been a credit to you and the school. Whilst we all have talked about the huge distances we feel we have walked, everyone has also talked about how good it has been to return. In the first two days our attendance was a remarkable 99.4%.

Over the past week we have introduced our young people to the 'new normal' and their response has been incredibly mature. It takes time to learn new systems: hygiene regime, one-way routes, access to stairs and corridors, times of the day and much more. The Team Howden ethos has been evident throughout, evidenced in the support staff and students alike have shown one another.

It has been a pleasure to walk around the school and see everyone settle back into school life. The positive approach, resilience and respect has been exactly what we wanted to see (and I know you will want to hear).

As the weeks progress and guidance is updated, we will continue to review the current measures we have in place to ensure all staff and students are safe.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of **the main symptoms of coronavirus**:

- They will not be able to attend school, this will be an authorised absence.
- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and self-isolate until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone they live with, including anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get their result.

Further clarification around school attendance has been shared by Public Health England this week. **They advise that if a child has mild cold like symptoms that they should continue to go to school, if they are well enough do so. Sore throats, headaches and blocked/runny noses are not symptoms of coronavirus.**

Yours sincerely

Mr G Cannon  
Headteacher