



# HOWDEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

27 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you at the end of another extremely busy half-term. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of May and our students will soon be moving onto their new year groups and our Year 11s will be leaving us to start the next stage of their lives.

## Examinations

This is our first set of formal summer examinations since 2019 and we are **incredibly proud** of the way that Year 11 and Year 10 have conducted themselves. Preparations for these exams has been pressurised for students, parents / carers and teachers. However, the students' attitude and focus in the exam rooms has been **impeccable**.

## Sustainable transport, healthy living and well being

We have continued to work with East riding sustainable transport team to provide bikes, helmets, bike repairs and training **free of charge** for our students. This term we received the **Modeshift Stars Bronze Award** in recognition of the work of the school and students to move towards more sustainable transport. It has been great to see more students riding their bikes and the independence this has given them to access afterschool activities. New for this half term is the installation of a permanent, community **bike service station** by our main reception. This can be used to pump tyres and fix most minor bike related issues.

We have also focused on bike and road safety in assemblies and tutor work. If you could reinforce the following messages we would be most grateful. **Helmets** can save lives and **headphones** should not be worn whilst riding. Riding on the **handlebars** of another students' bike is not stable and it is dangerous.

The increase in housing and traffic in Howden is beginning to add to **road safety issues** at the beginning and end of the school day. We appreciate this can make drop-offs and pick-ups slower, but to ensure the safety of students we will no longer be allowing pick up and drop off using the **back entrance of the school (Station Road)**. Please can you also carefully consider where you are parking to ensure the safety of students arriving and leaving the school on bikes or on foot. We will be deploying premises staff to support this and we may, at times, need to ask parents to move on to a different parking space to support the safety of our students.

We have contacted East Riding of Yorkshire Council to investigate if there are any ways that improvements can be made to the road and road furniture in the area and await a meeting with them and to find possible solutions.

## Safeguarding and Attendance

We continue to work hard to keep all members of our school community safe and to educate our young learners about all manner of safeguarding concerns through assemblies, tutor work and our

lessons, for example, PSHCE. The safeguarding focus this half term is on **positive relationships** and how to protect yourself from **exploitation** and **coercive control**. There is a safeguarding section on the school website in 'information; safeguarding' for more details and advice for parents and carers. Here you will find emotional well-being and mental health support, online safety and our safeguarding focus week information.

If your child is picked up or leaves school during the day, please ensure you follow School procedures by informing the Attendance Officer of the reason for absence. This is important for the safeguarding of our students.

### **Celebrations**

It has been a pleasure to see covid-recovery continuing. Our catch-up plans are on course to deliver over **1500 hours of tutoring**, our **extra-curricular** activities have grown again and it is fantastic to see so many students getting involved in so many additional activities. We are delighted to see a wide range of educational **visits** and fixtures increasingly available to our learners as we know the benefits are huge. The upcoming **Work Experience** for Year 10 students is also a welcome return following the pandemic. This is an invaluable way of helping them to prepare for the world of work.

Our new **outdoor catering pod** is now operational, and students are enjoying shorter queues and quicker service inside the canteen and outside in the sun as a result. The addition of ice-lollies seems to have become particularly positive!

We also thank parents/carers and students for supporting our non-uniform day in celebration of the **Queen's Jubilee**. We have been able to donate money to local charities and supplies to the **food bank**.

### **Reminders and Dates for your diary**

- Leavers' Assembly: 23 June
- Year 10 Assessment week: 1 - 6 July (more information to follow)
- Sports day: Friday 8 July (Weather Permitting)
- Work Experience: 11 - 15 July
- Transition Week: 11 - 15 July
- Year 6 Tutor Evening: 14 July
- GCSE / BTEC Results Day: 25 August
- Year 6 Summer School: 22 - 24 August

Kind regards



Mr P Harris  
Operational Headteacher

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