



# HOWDEN SCHOOL

Derwent Road • Howden • East Yorkshire • DN14 7AL  
T: 01430 430448 • F: 01430 432435 • E: [office@howdenschool.net](mailto:office@howdenschool.net)  
Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

22 July 2022

## Summer Newsletter

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 a unique year. As we come to the end of the academic year it is naturally a time to reflect on the year. We came back in September thinking that we would be back to normal in schools. However, as things transpired this was far from the truth. If we want to use a football analogy, then this year has been a year of two halves. The first half of the year was characterised by high levels of Covid absence for both staff and students. Howden was no exception to these significant national challenges. Another challenge was to normalise student behaviors as they had spent so long out of school routines. The second half of the year saw staffing absence stabilise and a return to what could be considered normality, with many activities going on in the school. During the year, we have been really pleased to see a dramatic decline in student behavior incidents and significant rise in rewards, as our students have settled back into schooling. We will continue to work hard with our students as they deal with the long-term impacts of covid on their relationships with others, mental-health and academic catch-up.

### Important dates

**Exam results day:** Thursday 25 August from 8:00 AM for **Year 11** students and from 10:00 AM for **Year 10** students.

**Year 6 Summer School:** Monday 22 August to Wednesday 24 August.

**Staff Training Day:** Monday 5 September - School closed to all students.

**School reopens for Year 7 and Year 11 students only** on Tuesday 6 September.

**School will be open for all students, Year 7-Year 11** on Wednesday 7 September.

### Staffing

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. Macey, Teacher of Science, 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 Macey 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 History teacher, Mr. Perkins. Mr. Perkins has reached the end of his temporary contract and he is taking up a permanent position at The Reed School. He is a highly respected and liked member of staff. We wish him all the best in his new school. He is being replaced by Mrs E Rowe, who many of you will know, and will be returning as our Head of History.

Also retiring is one of our learning tutors, Mrs. Nutbrown. She has been a significant support to the Maths department, and we wish her a long and fruitful retirement and thank her for all her hard work at the school.

Mr. Campbell will be leaving us after supporting our ERP students as a Teaching Assistant. We wish him luck in his new post.

Finally, Miss Fewlass will be leaving us after teaching Art, Technology and several other subjects. She will be moving to another school in the Trust, and we wish her all the best.

In a time of national teacher shortages, I am delighted to say all our teaching posts have been filled for September and we look forward to welcoming new staff into the school to support the students.

### **The school Site**

We have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure we are ready for September. During the summer term/ holidays we are making a number of upgrades in the school. We have had to start planning earlier this year because of the long lead in time for materials. We have recently completed two outdoor shelters for students to use to shade them from the sun and inclement weather. These two structures should greatly add to the student experience in school.

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. In addition to this a large number of classrooms will be receiving new furniture. This is a considerable investment in the school at a time of steep price increases.

### **Catering**

In September we will introduce a new set of food menus in the school. These menus are based upon student surveys and the healthy eating guidelines. In relation to price increases we will continue to provide the meal deal option of £2.60 main meal, dessert, and a drink (includes main meal/street food/pasta) and the £2.45 meal deal of a main meal and dessert. The tariff for all other food items will increase in line with Consumer Price Index which is currently 9%, however, we have tried to limit the impact on the healthy options, and it is testament to the work of the Central Team at TCAT that we have been able to offer the core meal deal at the same price in a time of high food price inflation. Thank you to the catering staff at school, who have continued to work extremely hard for our young people in incredibly challenging times regarding costs and supplies of food.

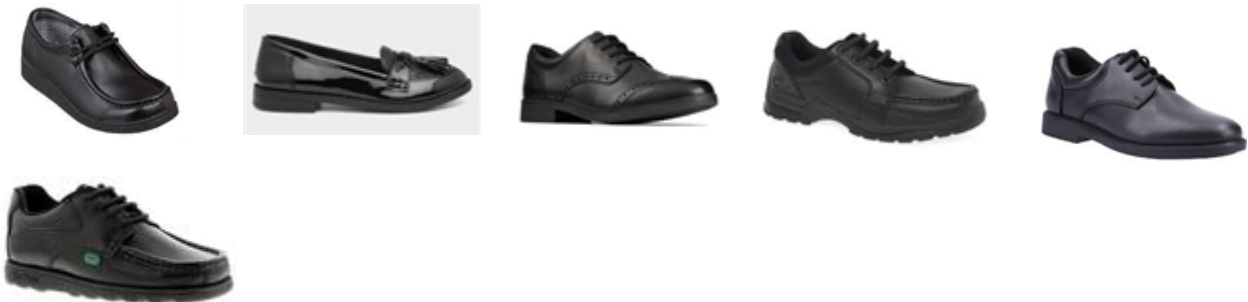
### **Uniform**

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. 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:

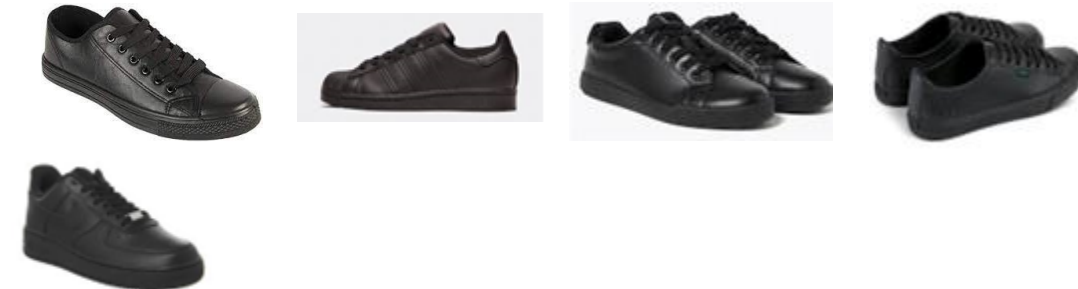
- **Skirts:** Plain black pleated or tailored skirts. Skirts must sit no more than just above the knee and be of appropriate length. **Skirts should not be of stretchy material or skin-tight.** Plain black tights should be worn. In the warmer months if students adhere to the rules on skirt length, then they can wear socks instead of tights if they prefer.
- **Trousers:** Smart, plain black formal trousers. **No close fitting, lycra, leggings or jeans allowed.** Trousers should be of an appropriate length and not cropped to reveal Ankles.
- Hair should be of a natural colour.
- Two piercings in ears are allowed but no facial or body piercings. Students with facial or body piercings will be instructed to remove them.
- Blazers will be compulsory for Year 7 students and students in other year groups can wear them if they wish.
- **School Shoes:** **Trainer style shoes are not permitted,** including styles such as Nike Airforce ones. Shoes should be polishable and smart.

Please see images below of acceptable school shoes (which was sent out in June 22)

**Correct footwear** ✓



**Incorrect footwear** X



As previously discussed, as a school we are very aware of the sustainability problems our planet faces and impact we can have by supporting recycling and reusing uniform. We have already adopted a smart and consistent school uniform, which lasts well, but also want to encourage the re-circulation of barely worn or good condition garments. It is with this in mind we would welcome any branded uniform which is in good condition to be donated to the school. This includes any school shoes that no longer fit and ties from our Year 11 students.

We will be holding a uniform sale, subject to donations and availability, of branded items across the following days: Monday 22, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 August between 10am and 2pm. These branded items will be at reduced cost. If you wish to donate any branded items (including PE kit) please bring them into school at the start of the holiday and leave in the reception area, where they will be collected by our site staff or donate between 22 and 24 August.

### **Safeguarding and Behaviour**

We have once again had an incredibly positive safeguarding audit by the TRUST. External audits of the school this year have found that behaviour is good, and incidents of child conflict are low. However, can we take this opportunity to remind you all that bullying is not tolerated in the school and we work very hard to educate our young learners regarding bullying, Child on Child conflict and unpleasant behaviour, both in person and online. We will continue to work with your children on these areas, as well as safeguarding, in the next academic year and if you have any concerns, please contact your child's Pastoral Manager.

Our young people are a credit to the school and are able to extensively talk about how to keep themselves safe. Our safeguarding week 5 focus will continue next year. Please can I remind you that all information to support your child on these topics is on the school website. If you have any safeguarding concerns over the summer holidays, please refer to the ERSCP website.

### **Summer Safety**

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. And this is an ideal time to recharge your batteries for the year ahead. Sadly, during the summer months we often hear stories in the news regarding tragedies in water. Please discuss water safety; in rivers, lakes and the sea with your children because it is tempting to swim to stay cool and that can lead to people getting into difficulties. We have discussed this especially important topic with our young people this week.

As the year now draws to a close, may I take this opportunity on behalf of everyone here at Howden to express our thanks to all families for your continued support over recent months I am incredibly grateful for the support and resilience that has been shown. Can I wish you a happy and restful summer; we look forward to welcoming our young people back in September and continuing to work with all families.

Kind regards



Mr G Cannon  
Headteacher

