Howden School
Derwent Road
Howden
DN14 7AL
Tel 01430 430448

office@howdenschool.net

www.howdenschool.net

25 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful week at Howden School, I would like to thank students, staff and families for their continued support. The school has been full of positive experiences, achievements and opportunities, demonstrating the aspiration, courtesy and excellence that we value so highly.

A huge congratulations goes to the 579 students who were recognised today for achieving a 100% attendance streak over the past five school days. An early lunch pass was issued to all of these students allowing them to have an extra 15 minutes to enjoy their social time. Consistent attendance remains one of the strongest indicators of success, and it was fantastic to celebrate so many students who are demonstrating excellent habits and commitment to their education.

Yesterday we hosted our annual Year 11 Conference Day, providing students with focused support as they begin preparing for their GCSE mock examinations. Students heard from guest speaker Evie-Mae Stevenson from The Parental Imprisonment Collective and Dead Clever Girls Project, who shared her powerful personal story. Students also worked with leaders from English, Mathematics and Science to strengthen their preparation and revision strategies. The engagement from Year 11 students throughout the day was exceptional and we are confident they left feeling motivated and well prepared for the weeks ahead.

This week also brought fantastic recognition for one of our own. Mr Gardiner was recognised at the BBC Make a Difference Awards for his outstanding work with A Shining Light, the charity he has tirelessly championed over many years. Through his relentless fundraising efforts and commitment to raising awareness, he has made a significant difference to the charity and the many people it supports. We are incredibly proud to see his dedication recognised on such a prestigious platform.

Sporting fixtures continue to provide students with fantastic opportunities to represent the school. On Monday, our Year 7 to Year 10 teams competed against Market Weighton, with victories for the Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 teams in the first round of the East Riding Cup. The Year 9 team competed in the National Cup on Tuesday and, despite a spirited second-half comeback, were narrowly defeated by Hymers College. On Thursday, our Year 10 team faced a strong and physical Armthorpe side in the first round of the National Cup and secured an excellent victory. It has been a tremendous week of fixtures and there is much more sporting action to come throughout the year.

A reminder that our annual Careers Fair will take place on Wednesday 7 October from 3pm to 6.30pm in the Hall. This is always a valuable event, providing students with opportunities to engage with employers, training providers and further education representatives, helping them to make informed decisions about their future pathways. The Careers Fair is open to students from all year groups, and we look forward to welcoming students and their parents/carers on the evening. We encourage families to come along, explore the opportunities available and make the most of this valuable event.

I would also like to remind families about our expectations regarding mobile phones. Our approach remains simple: “On Site, Out of Sight.” Mobile phones, headphones and smart watches should not be used from the moment students enter the school site until they leave at the end of the day and should be turned off and in bags. Students who attend Reflections are required to hand in their phone, switched off, for secure storage

throughout the school day. A phone-free environment reduces distractions, protects learning time, improves behaviour and supports positive face-to-face relationships. This approach aligns with national guidance and helps us maintain a calm, safe and focused environment for all students.

Following our successful trip to Peru this summer, we are looking ahead and planning the next Expedition to Ecuador in the summer of 2028. This trip is available to our current year 9 and 10 students. There is a presentation for parents with more information on Tuesday 6 October at 6pm.

Finally, a further reminder regarding school transport. Students must travel on the bus route stated on their bus pass. This is an important safeguarding requirement. Checks were carried out on Wednesday and again today, and students were reminded that they must have their bus pass available when travelling. If a pass has been lost, parents should contact the local authority to request a replacement as soon as possible. We are currently continuing to support students whilst these checks are established; and parent have time to remedy this. We recognise that some families believe their child may have been allocated an incorrect route and we will continue to support where possible, but school transport is administered by the local authority, and it remains the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure students have a valid pass and are travelling on the correct service. Please make sure your child has a bus pass for the bus they travel on by half term.

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to welcome prospective students and families to our Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday. This is always one of the highlights of the year and provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school, our values and our vision for success. If you have family members, friends or neighbours with children currently in primary school, please encourage them to come along and see everything that Howden School has to offer.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Tester
Headteacher