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18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fantastic week at Howden School and I would like to thank our students, staff and families for the positive start to the academic year. We have now completed our first full week back and the standards we are seeing across the school have been excellent. Students have returned with a positive attitude to learning, demonstrating our values of Aspiration, Courtesy and Excellence every day. Attendance, behaviour and engagement have all been exceptionally strong, and it has been a pleasure to see classrooms settled, focused and full of purposeful learning.

A particular mention must go to our Year 7 students, who have made a superb start to life at Howden School. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into secondary school, embraced new routines and become part of our community. Whilst many are now navigating the site with confidence, some students are still finding their way around. As a result, the early break and lunch arrangements that have been in place during the first two weeks will cease from next week. However, staff will continue to be available throughout the day to support any students who need help finding their way to lessons or who would benefit from a little additional support as they continue to settle in.

I would also like to remind families about our school transport arrangements. Please ensure that students use the correct buses, have their bus passes with them at all times, and follow our expectations when travelling to and from school. Working together helps to ensure that journeys are safe and positive for everyone.

We would also ask parents and carers to support us by following our procedures for dropping off and collecting students. Cars are not permitted to drive onto the school site either at the back or front of site for student drop-off or collection. Whilst we appreciate that many students are collected by car at the end of the day, we ask that families use the streets adjacent to the school and avoid entering the school site itself. This helps to maintain a safe environment for all students, staff and visitors, particularly at our busiest times of the day.

Last night we welcomed our Year 11 students and their families to our Year 11 Launch Event. It was incredibly well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to gain a clear understanding of the year ahead. Families were able to receive important information about revision in the core subjects, speak with a range of post-16 providers and gain an insight into the proactive steps that can be taken now to support students in achieving success next summer. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff and external partners who helped make the event such a success.

As we move further into the term, I would also like to remind parents and carers of the importance of keeping student information up to date. If your child has a medical condition that requires a

healthcare plan, please ensure that this information has been reviewed and updated as necessary. We are currently reviewing healthcare plans across the school, and it is essential that the information we hold is accurate and current.

We would also ask all families to log in to Arbor and check that contact details are correct, including home addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and any other relevant information. Having accurate information is essential in helping us provide the best possible support for your child and ensuring we can contact families quickly when required.

A reminder that we have our careers Fayre on 7th October which is a great opportunity for students, parents and carers to meet with college and post 16 providers as well as apprentice links and other employers. Look out for further details on social media and within future communications.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and I look forward to seeing our students continue to thrive in the weeks ahead.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Tester
Headteacher