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11 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first three days of the new academic year, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for such a positive start. It has been wonderful to welcome students back to school and see the energy, enthusiasm and sense of purpose around the site.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 students, who have settled into school life exceptionally well. Across the school, students have returned ready to learn, reconnect with friends and make the most of the opportunities ahead. There is a real sense of optimism around the school, and I have been delighted by the way students have approached the start of the new year.

One of the highlights of today was celebrating more than 500 students who have achieved 100% attendance across the first three days of term. These students were rewarded for making such a positive start to the year. Excellent attendance is one of the most important factors in success at school, and I would like to thank parents and carers for your support in ensuring students arrive every day, on time and ready to learn.

As we begin this new academic year, we also continue to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our Class of 2026. During the summer, our Year 11 students achieved the best GCSE results in the history of Howden School. These outstanding outcomes reflect the ambition we hold for every child and young person and the values that define our school community: Aspiration, Courtesy and Excellence.

We are incredibly proud of what our students achieved. Their success reflects not only their hard work, determination and resilience, but also the unwavering support of parents and carers and the expertise, commitment and dedication of our staff. These results demonstrate what can be achieved when a community works together to help young people succeed.

This week, we were delighted to introduce our Senior Student Leadership Team during our welcome assemblies. Our Head Students are Arthur Steel and Chelsea Leetham, supported by an outstanding team of Deputy Head Students: Neve Southgate, Ruby Goodwin-Self, Millie Issatt, Amelie Smart, Edith Watson, Eva Brigham, Ursula Levitt, Chloe Barber, Pippa Howard, Olivia McEwan, Jess Handley, Hayden Carter, Hendrix Kay, Jack Wilson, Tyler Stone, Tobi Adedeji, Faith Waring and Monty Lewis. The quality of applications and interviews was exceptional, and we are excited to see what they bring to their roles over the coming year.

Thank you to the overwhelming majority of students who have returned looking smart and taking pride in their appearance. As we move through the first few weeks of term, staff will continue to reinforce our uniform expectations, and we would appreciate your continued support in ensuring students arrive each morning in the correct uniform and equipped for learning.

A reminder that students must travel on their allocated bus and carry their bus pass at all times. Bus pass checks will be taking place over the coming weeks, and all students should ensure they have their pass with them each day.

Although school transport is provided by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we want all Howden School students to demonstrate the same high standards when travelling to and from school as they do on site. A Howden

School Bus Code of Conduct will be introduced shortly and will require signatures from both students and parents. This will help us continue to promote safe, respectful and responsible behaviour on school transport.

Over the summer, we have seen some significant improvements to our school site. A new staff and visitor car park has been completed, and the roundabout at the entrance to school has been resurfaced. Whilst these may seem like relatively small changes, they make a considerable difference to the day-to-day experience of staff, visitors and the wider school community by improving access, safety and parking capacity.

We have also made substantial investments in our learning environments, particularly within Art, Technology and Science. In Technology, we now have a new IT suite, an expanded multi-functional practical workshop, an additional classroom space and a further flexible workshop area that can support textiles, 3D design and design technology. Our Art department has been transformed, with existing spaces opened up to create larger, more practical and inspiring environments for students.

Across Science, every teaching space has been refreshed with new flooring, ceilings and furniture, alongside new teacher demonstration stations that will further enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

In addition, our reception area has been modernised and a number of offices and shared spaces across the school have been improved.

These developments represent far more than building projects. They reflect our commitment to investing in both our staff and students and our determination to provide facilities that match the ambition we have for the school. High-quality environments support high-quality teaching and learning, and these improvements are another important step in ensuring Howden School continues to move forward and provide the very best opportunities for everyone in our community.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their families to our Year 11 Launch Event on Thursday 17 September from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. Families will receive bespoke support packs, key information about mock examinations, practical revision strategies and guidance from our Core Subject Leaders. It is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable advice, ask questions and ensure students are fully prepared for the year ahead.

Healthcare plans have now started going out as usual. In light of new legislation, we are also introducing individual healthcare plans for pupils with allergies to ensure that their needs are clearly recorded and supported in school. We kindly ask all parents/carers to log onto Arbor and check and update their child's medical information, ensuring that all details are accurate and up to date. Thank you for your continued support.

The first few days of term have reminded me what a special community we have at Howden School. The positivity, courtesy and determination shown by our students have been a pleasure to see, and I have been immensely proud of how they have started the year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure every young person flourishes, achieves their potential and lives out the values that sit at the heart of our school.

I look forward to sharing many more successes with you throughout the year.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Tester
Headteacher