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09 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy week, I would like to thank students, staff and families for their continued support. It has been another week full of opportunities, achievements and experiences that demonstrate what makes our school community so special.

As a reminder, members of the Senior Leadership Team are available every Wednesday between 3.30pm and 5.30pm for parents who wish to discuss a concern, seek advice or raise a query. To ensure that enquiries are directed to the most appropriate senior leader and that sufficient time can be allocated, appointments should be booked in advance. This allows us to provide the most effective support possible and ensures that any issues can be addressed promptly by the colleague best placed to help. Please contact Mrs Mumby if you wish to arrange an appointment via the following link: SLT Surgery – Fill in form

Our checks on school buses continue and we would like to remind parents to ensure that any student who has lost their pass, damaged their pass or is travelling with an incorrect pass arranges for this to be resolved as soon as possible. Following half term, we will be working closely with the Local Authority to ensure that bus passes are checked daily. Ensuring students have the correct pass will help avoid unnecessary difficulties when travelling to and from school.

On Tuesday, we will be carrying out a planned lockdown practice as part of our ongoing safeguarding and emergency preparedness procedures. The exercise is designed to ensure that staff and students understand what actions to take and can respond quickly and safely in the unlikely event of a situation requiring a lockdown. Students will be informed during their ACE period on Monday, where staff will explain the purpose of the practice and talk through the procedures that will be followed. This will ensure that students know exactly what to expect and have the opportunity to ask any questions beforehand. Staff will provide reassurance and support throughout the process.

Parents may wish to discuss the practice with their child in advance so that they are aware it is taking place. Whilst exercises of this nature can sometimes prompt questions, this is not something to be worried about. Rather, it is an important part of ensuring that we are prepared and know what to do should the need ever arise. Regular practice helps ensure that our procedures remain familiar and effective, allowing us to maintain the highest standards of safety for everyone in our school community.

This week, all students received a label during their Science lessons containing their unique username and password for Educake, our new online homework platform. To make the initial login process straightforward, all student passwords are currently the same as their usernames. Students will be prompted to change their password when they first log in. Homework will begin to be set through Educake from next week and we are looking forward to the additional opportunities this platform will provide to support learning both in school and at home. If your child requires any support with accessing the system, please encourage them to speak to Mr Marshall.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Careers Fair on Wednesday. It was fantastic to see so many students and families engaging with employers, training providers, colleges and universities. Events such as these play an important role in helping young people understand the wide range of opportunities available to them and begin making informed decisions about their future pathways. The strong turnout from both students and

parents demonstrated the commitment within our community to raising aspirations and supporting successful futures.

On Tuesday evening we launched our next international adventure, with students and families gathering to learn more about our planned expedition to Ecuador. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and interest in what promises to be another life-changing opportunity. Experiences such as these broaden horizons, develop independence and create memories that last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed an interest in being part of this exciting journey.

Good luck to all of our students taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh expedition this weekend. Over the course of the weekend, students will be putting their skills into practice through navigation, long-distance walks, camping and working together as a team. Experiences such as these provide invaluable opportunities to develop resilience, independence, communication and interpersonal skills, whilst learning to overcome challenges and support one another outside of the classroom. We look forward to hearing about their adventures and seeing the confidence and personal growth that undoubtedly comes from taking part in such a rewarding experience. Thank you also to the staff who are giving up their weekend to make these opportunities possible for our young people.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Gardiner, who recently received the Founding Volunteer Award at the Time2Volunteer Awards in recognition of the incredible work he has undertaken in establishing and developing A Shining Light charity. This is thoroughly deserved recognition for the time, commitment and dedication he has shown in supporting others. We are incredibly proud to have Mr Gardiner as part of our school community and delighted to see his contribution recognised in this way.

It has also been another positive week for school sport. Our Year 7 and Year 8 teams took part in friendly fixtures against Woldgate. The Year 7 team secured an excellent victory, whilst the Year 8 team put in a determined performance but were unable to come away with the result on this occasion. Our Year 7 boys also progressed through the second round of the National Cup and now move on to the next stage of the competition. This is a fantastic achievement and one of which they should be extremely proud.

We are delighted with how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at Howden and on Thursday 15th October, we have invited our Year 7 students and their families to our Meet the Team Event between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. The event will provide an opportunity to learn more about life at the school, meet key staff, visit curriculum areas, view student work, tour the school site and sample food from our catering provider, Caterlink. There will also be a presentation at 5.00pm outlining our vision and values, approaches to assessment and what it means to learn The Howden Way. Parents will also be able to access information and advice on topics including independent study, Arbor, our house system and enrichment opportunities. We look forward to welcoming families and sharing more about the exciting opportunities available to our Year 7 students.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We are proud to be a community school and weeks like this serve as a reminder that what makes our school special is not the building, but the people within it. The commitment, care and ambition shown by our students, staff and families each day continue to make a real difference.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Tester
Headteacher