

WEEK 38 - Friday 16 July 2021

Hello

I have had a great week introducing myself to the Year 7 students during assemblies as their new Head of Year from September. It was great to meet them although a shame that not all of them could be there due to the number that are currently isolating.

I am determined to follow on from the work that Miss Pinkney has done in upholding our school values and daily routines that she has introduced. The effect is clear and the year group are incredibly organised and self-disciplined.

Whilst we look to build on that great work, September will bring a fresh start for everyone and the beginning of a new four-year journey to the end of Year 11 with the support of a new pastoral team, including their tutors, Miss Staveley, Assistant Head of Year 8 and myself. This has already begun with the Assemblies last week and, of course, they have already met their new tutors and will spend tutor time with them next week.

I wish you a happy summer and look forward to meeting all our Year 8s in September.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 11

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 11

So I guess this is 'goodbye' from me; however, please be assured that all of the relevant information has been successfully passed on to Mrs Taylor and Miss Staveley. I wish all of the Year 7 students the very best in their future at Hessle High School and although I am no longer their Head Of Year, I will continue to keep a watchful eye on them as they grow into young adults achieving their full potential.

Regards

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7

WEEK 36 - Friday 2 July 2021

My blog this week is based on school uniforms, the high expectations we have and the number of times I hear 'why can't we wear that when it doesn't affect my education.'

I read an article recently that discussed this topic so I thought I would share some of the key points that I took from this article.

"When students all wear the same clothing every day at school, it levels out the playing field. Any expectations on what to wear are removed and children develop a greater sense of equality.

Creating a standard promotes the idea that we are all the same. Children come together from different backgrounds and can immediately identify a fellow member of their team from the clothes that they wear, breeding a sense of cohesion and commonality that is lost when school uniforms are removed.

If a child feels like they don't fit in, or they don't have the latest and best clothing, it can be damaging to their confidence. A lack of confidence can be one of the most significant barriers to academic growth. Retaining a school uniform removes this possibility, meaning your child has less to worry about and more reason to be confident in class.

As any parent knows, weekday mornings can be chaotic. It can be tricky enough to get yourself ready for work without having to worry about how your child is getting on too. That problem is amplified if your child doesn't have a school uniform to put on each morning, as they take their time to decide what to wear. In the end, it could take away from what is important – your child's studies."

<https://www.nordangliaeducation.com/article/2020/7/15/the-benefits-of-schools-uniforms>

We want all of our students to feel confident and to have a sense of belonging and we are proud of our students as they smartly walk to school and enter our school gates in their uniform. And as a parent myself I can truly say that it is much easier, less hassle and less expensive for us as parents.

I hope you have had the opportunity to read the recent information sent out to all parents regarding uniform clarity. The policy isn't changing - we have just offered some more straightforward options around skirts and shoes.

It is very important to us that parents ensure the children are following our uniform policy and that we are able to work together to ensure that we get this right from the absolute start of the next calendar school year. If you have any queries or concerns please do contact us.

During tutor time the students have been working on the topic of kindness, please speak to your child regarding this as this has been a lovely topic and allowed the students to share their own ideas of acts of kindness. There are a couple of links below which also explain compassion games and how we can work together to make a change.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vu7SQIm_ljQ

www.compassiongames.org

Take care and stay safe,

Miss Pinkney Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs Assistant Head of Year 7

WEEK 34 - Friday 18 June 2021

In this week's blog I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of a change to your child's HOY and AHOY and the reasoning behind this.

One of the roles which I have had for a number of years is as the Transition Coordinator which involves me having close contact with a number of Primary Schools in the area. As part of the role, I visit Primary Schools and specifically the Year 5 and 6 students. This means that a large number of young people in this area not only get to know me but also gain knowledge and understanding of Secondary School and specifically Hessle High School. As a school we therefore believe that it is important for the students to continue their transition to Secondary School with myself as their HOY and Miss Briggs as the Assistant Head of Year.

So what does this mean for you and your child? When your child returns to school in September, Mrs Taylor will be their Head of Year and Miss Staveley their Assistant Head of Year. All policies and procedures will stay the same and all of the rules and expectations will continue.

Our Year 7 tutor team will also remain with me and this means that a new team of tutors will take responsibility for the current Year 7 students as they move into Year 8. Your child will then continue their time in school through to Year 11 with Mrs Taylor, Miss Staveley and their new tutor.

Mrs Taylor will be writing a future blog in which she will share further details with you but in the meantime I would like to assure you that there are a number of meetings taking place to ensure all information regarding the Year 7 students is being shared and Mrs Taylor and Miss Staveley and that they are fully aware of any of the student needs within the Year group.

If you have any questions regarding these changes please email us at hoyyear7@hessleacademy.com.

Take care,

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7

WEEK 32 - Friday 28 May 2021

As we get to the end of this half term and we look back I think it is very important that we reflect on how amazingly well our students have done in such difficult and unpredictable times. We have spoken so much about resilience and the ability to cope with negative life events and challenges which is exactly what our students have done. I also feel it is important to factor in that the Year 7 students have not had the usual transition to Secondary School and certainly not the transition I had planned. But they have held their heads up high and 'got on with it.' Not to mention the constant changes for everyone in education; wear a mask, don't wear a mask, sanitise, sanitise again, stay 2 metres apart, stay in the same room - the list goes on and on. If we really take a minute we could all probably name a number of adults that would struggle with these constant changes.

And then there are the parents, the ones dealing with the changes when the students arrive home and working endlessly to work closely with us to support their children in any way possible and for this I am very grateful.

As we move into the final half term there will continue to be further changes and lots of preparation for your children as they move into Year 8 but please be assured that they will continue to gain help and support from myself, Miss Briggs, their tutors and their teachers.

As always I would like to encourage parents to discuss a couple of concerns which we are seeing in social times; play fighting and the dangers of this now that your children are getting bigger. Name calling, the emotional effect this can have on others and how they should be treating others the way in which they would like to be treated.

Once again I would like to say thankyou to all parents for their ongoing support and remind you that if you have any concerns to contact myself and Miss Briggs;
hoyyear7@hessleacademy.com

Take care and stay safe,

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7

WEEK 30 - Friday 14 May 2021

I have quite a few memories from my childhood of things I used to hear from both parents and grandparents; 'money doesn't grow on trees', 'because I said so', 'manners don't cost anything' and the classic 'I want, never gets'. I often thought these were just sayings from my family but, as I have grown older, I often catch myself repeating these sayings to my own children as well as the students at school.

Who else remembers, 'two wrongs don't make a right'? I certainly do, but what does it really mean? At school we often hear students say, 'I only said it because they said' But surely it can't be right for young people to have this attitude and to feel like they need to respond in the same negative hurtful manner?

A friend recently bought my children a lovely book called 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. The characters and illustrations in the book show the courage in asking for help, the strength in a community, resilience, compassion, the value of knowing you are enough and the power of kindness. I've used some of these illustrations within tutor time this week and asked the students to discuss what each means. I've included them below in the hope that you may wish to share them with your child at home.

We want our young people to see the importance of kindness and the impact that their hurtful words can have on others. I finished a recent assembly explaining that there is one saying I was taught and have always stuck by;

Treat people the way you want to be treated and talk to people the way you want to be talked to.

I just hope our students take this onboard and, as a community, that we can work together at what is still an unpredictable time to make each other happy and not feel sad.

Year 7 attendance has become a slight concern and unfortunately as a year group we have rarely hit the target of 96%. Please encourage your child to avoid absences from school; we are working very hard to get students back on track so their attendance to school is essential.

Thank you for your continued support and please do contact us with any questions or concerns; hoyear7@hessleacademy.com

Take care and stay safe,

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7

WEEK 28 - Friday 30 April 2021

This week we have been focusing on one of the Hessle values - Resilience

We interpret 'Resilience' to mean that *"We are determined, we do not give up when things get tough. We persevere. We know that learning is often hard but we persevere."*

When young people are resilient, they cope much better during or after difficult situations. We often hear the term 'bouncing back' which young people can often do. Your child needs resilience to navigate life's ups and downs and is an important factor to the development of our young people.

Young people can need resilience for a variety of situations; peer group disputes, struggling with their classwork or bigger issues like a family breakdown, family illness or death or they may just have an anxious personality. We can't always prevent our children from experiencing tough times but we can all play a big role in building their resilience. This support can come from parents, grandparents, aunts, teachers and even from their peers.

Resilience is more than just coping. When you're resilient, you're more prepared to seek new ways to overcome your challenges and achieve your goals. Although this might mean taking some risks, it also creates opportunities for success and greater self-confidence.

There are lots of helpful [websites](#) which can be found on the internet and I hope we can work together to support our students to build up their resilience.

Once again, I would like to repeat the importance of student attendance in school and the impact missing even one day can have on your child's education. As always, If you feel that your child requires any help or support please contact us at hoyyear7@hessleacademy.com.

Take care and stay safe,

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7

WEEK 26 - Friday 16 April 2021

Monday 12 April 2021 marked the start of Ramadan which is one of the topics students have been looking at during tutor time this week.

Muslims fast as an act of worship, a chance to get closer to God, and a way to become more compassionate to those in need. Fasting is also seen as a way to learn patience and break bad habits. Based on this I asked the students to think about the following keywords:

Compassionate - feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others.

Patience - the ability to endure difficult circumstances. Patience may involve perseverance in the face of delay; tolerance of provocation without responding in disrespect/anger; or forbearance when under strain, especially when faced with longer-term difficulties

Bad habit - a negative behaviour pattern. Common examples include: over thinking things, overspending and nail-biting.

We may not all believe in the same god but wouldn't it be nice if we all believed in compassion, patience and working towards breaking bad habits? I believe that our students can and do show the willingness to try this and for that I am very grateful and proud.

Finally I would like to repeat the importance of student attendance in school and the requirement for students to complete work on Google Classroom if they ever have to self isolate (I'm keeping everything crossed that this won't be the case!). As a school we are working hard to ensure the students are kept up to date with their work and offering as much support as we can. If you feel that your child requires any further support they can either email their teacher directly or you can contact us at hoyyear7@hessleacademy.com.

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7

Week 24 - Friday 19 March 2021

There are lots of things that make the British, British. The royal family, the unpredictable weather, Wimbledon, Fish and chips ... the list goes on. There is also something which is indigenous to the people in this country and that is our dedication to forming and respecting a good queue. Which brings me to our new routine for entering the building. Over the past two weeks we have asked the students to line up before they enter the building. This occurs at the start of the day and at the end of lunch. The result, a very calm, organised and safe entry into the building allowing me to ensure all of our Year 7 students stay within their bubbles and stay safe and protected. I am very proud of how the students in Year 7 have dealt with this and the mature attitude they have shown.

It has definitely been a busy and somewhat tiring two weeks but I cannot put into words how lovely it is to have the students back in school. I initially had concerns about students struggling with the structures and routines however they have returned with such a positive attitude and dealt with this amazingly well.

It is essential that we continue with the routines that we have worked so hard to put into place to ensure students stay safe and are able to stay in school. Please can you once again speak to your children about the importance of following the rules with regards to entering the school building correctly, wearing their masks at all times and washing their hands/sanitising.

As a school we are very much aware of the stress the students feel about their future and at the start of the term Miss Lawes shared a film about hope which was created for National Careers Week 2020. I think it is very useful for not only students but also parents and teachers to listen to the views of young people and I have therefore included a link to this film below.

<https://ncw2020.co.uk/a-film-about-hope/>

'If you have never allowed yourself to hope then today is the time to begin. Remember that you hold the power, and that hope starts within.'

Please continue to contact us if you have any questions or concerns
hoyyear7@hessleacademy.com.

Miss Pinkney

Head of Year 7

Mrs Briggs

Assistant Head of Year 7