



Hessle High School
& Sixth Form College
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07 September 2026

Secondary – Return to School

Dear parent / carer

We are writing in preparation for the new school year, please read the following carefully as it outlines key points and reminders and some changes which have been agreed by Governors during the last week of term, hence this communication today.

Return to School Dates:

- All students return for the new academic year on Wednesday 09 September 2026.
- Students in Year 7-12 start at 8:30am and Year 13 at 1.00pm

FAO Year 7 Parents - Home Groups

A reminder that as a school we have moved to Mixed Prior Attainment groupings for Year 7 students, which replaces the old banding system we currently adopt in Y8 and 9. Students will be placed in a home group which they will move around the school with, and attend lessons in all subjects other than Maths, English & Science. You will see this on their timetable as 7J, 7L for example. This class will remain the same for all lessons.

For Maths, English & Science lessons students are streamed into 2 populations - either East or West (7E, 7W on timetables) and attend these lessons as a half year group at a time.

School Bus:

You will be able to purchase school bus tickets and live track the school buses directly via the EYMS App [Fares and tickets - East Yorkshire](#). Alternatively, students are able to purchase a single or day return ticket on the bus with cash or by card on the day. There will no longer be termly bus passes issued by the school. Further information can be found on our website [here](#).

School Uniform:

As ever, we expect all students to wear appropriate uniform at all times, as detailed in the [guidance document](#). Any student that is not wearing the correct uniform will be challenged. Your support with this is greatly appreciated. Please see the latest school uniform information [here](#).

Mobile Phones:

In line with the rest of our Trust schools and in accordance with Government guidance, mobile phones are not permitted to be seen or used anywhere on the school site. Once again, your support with this is greatly appreciated.

School values:

We have refined our values to support our shift in culture whilst ensuring a close link with the Sixth Form. Previously, the main school had six values, each of our four Houses had its' own value, and the Sixth Form had three values resulting in a total of thirteen. I believe that values should be concise, linked to the uniqueness of our school, and underpin all that we do.

In various discussions, the view was taken that the Trust Sixth Form ACE values (Ambition, Collaboration and Excellence) should form part of the main school given we expect many of our students to stay on. Linked to this, one value we teach in the main school to prepare students for Sixth Form and, indeed life, is for them to take "Responsibility" as independence is crucial to success. By taking Responsibility from our current set of values and adding it to the Sixth Form values, it becomes CARE:

- Collaboration
- Ambition
- Responsibility
- Excellence

From Wednesday, our rewards programme will be based on CARE, and tutor time will be a CARE period. It also supports our new "know the child before you know the student" approach. I have also increased the funding for rewards this academic year.

Lunchtime:

When analysing school data, it shows that student concentration reduces significantly after lunch, and so attitudes to learning can be less positive. This is not a new phenomenon; I can remember conversations about this very issue back in the 1990s.

Previously we had two lessons after lunch and only an hour's gap between break and lunch. Up until our successful move to a single lunchtime, almost half the school were on break from 11.00am - 11.20am then lunch from 1.20pm - 2.00pm. Following discussions and agreement by Governors and the Trust, we are replicating those timings for the whole school from Wednesday when all main school students return. This will result in us having two lessons between break and lunch time and only one lesson after lunch, not only creating an even balance between social times but also improving the quality of education for many of our students. Current arrangements for Sixth Form students will remain the same as before and we will arrange different social timings for students when sitting mock or external exams. There is no change to the start and end of the school day.

Local Behaviour Policy:

We have also realigned some aspects of our local behaviour procedures which is now on the school website. Schools run training sessions for staff to support them in improving the school and understanding a new initiative or to emphasise priorities and so it is our intention to do the same for students. We will be running half-termly training sessions called "The Hesse Way" starting on Wednesday so that the whole community works together and students are introduced to the changes along with the rationale. Many of these sessions will take place during the CARE period first thing in the morning or during assemblies. A summary of the amendments to our local procedures is as follows:

- Our rewards system is based around our new CARE values. Students will be rewarded for hard work, good behaviour and displaying the school values.

- High expectations around students being organised for school each day including the correct uniform, equipment, and punctuality to school/lessons.
- A key addition to the policy is our "Escalation of Behaviours" which allows for the close monitoring and repeated behaviours to be actioned quickly and effectively.
- This includes the reintroduction of lunchtime detentions as a sanction and for students who require immediate intervention, an introduction of a 'same-day detention' in certain instances.
- Our detention system has been updated and simplified. There will no longer be 15 or 30 minute detentions. Detentions are on a lunchtime or 1 hour after school (with a failure to attend leading to further sanction).
- Based on Government and Trust Policy guidance, our mobile phone policy remains "on site, out of sight." Phones must be turned off and placed in student bags. Phones will be confiscated if seen out on site at any point in the school day.
- Continued education for students who make incorrect behaviour choices through both internal work and work with our external support agencies.

Any sanction given to a student will be communicated with parents so we can continue to work in partnership.

Our local procedures are used alongside our Trust Behaviour Policy clearly setting out expectations, specific routines, and responsibilities to ensure consistency and safety for all in our school community. We continue to maintain high standards of student behaviour to maximise the chances of success for all and we thank you for your support with this.

Exam Results:

Finally, our results at both GCSE and Sixth Form this August were a significant improvement from previous years with basics (English & Maths) at grade 5+ going from 38% to 51% along with improvements in 4+ and 7+. Several individual subjects performed above national at both GCSE and A level too, so it was pleasing to see so many happy faces at both results days. The impact of strong collaboration with parents and carers cannot be overestimated and so we look forward to another successful year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Nixon
Headteacher