



# HOULTON

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## SCHOOL



# Houlton School

Year 7 Pupil Welcome Pack

2026-2027

Dear Year 7,

Welcome to Houlton School!

Our school is a family and as its newest members, we want to do everything we can to support you with your exciting transition from Primary to Secondary School. We know this can be daunting, but you are not alone, we are here to make sure that you have the very best Year 7 experience. You are joining a community that is here to keep you safe, to help you to learn and in which you can be happy. Like all our pupils, you will be at the heart of everything that we do; we have the very best staff waiting to help you to grow into kind, resilient and confident young adults. We want you to remember your time at Houlton forever, we want it to be filled with joy, but more than anything else, we want to be a place when you can thrive as your true self, able to follow your passions and explore a wide range of interests – the things that make you uniquely you. We are so excited to have you join us in the coming year and cannot wait to meet you!

We have lots of events coming up to help you settle in, part of this is that we will come and visit you and your Primary school teachers, then you will all get a chance to visit us in July for transition day. This will give you the opportunity to experience secondary school life before your official start with us in September. It will also give us the chance to get to learn about you and give you a head start on building friendships. You will get to know other pupils in your tutor group, pupils from older year groups who are in the same College as you and a whole range of different staff, including your Head of Year. That way you will have a whole group of friendly, familiar faces waiting to greet you in the Autumn term.

As part of the Houlton School family, we have high expectations of you in your academic efforts and your behaviour. We will expect you to always try to model our values: kindness, tenacity, courage, excellence and loyalty, both in school and in the wider community. We are proud of our school and know that you, through living our values every day, will make us exceptionally proud as well.

We will be in touch over the coming weeks with more information about your transition to Houlton School and have enclosed some information for you in this pack to get you started. We hope you enjoy reading it and are really looking forward to meeting you soon.



Mrs. L Pountney  
Head of School

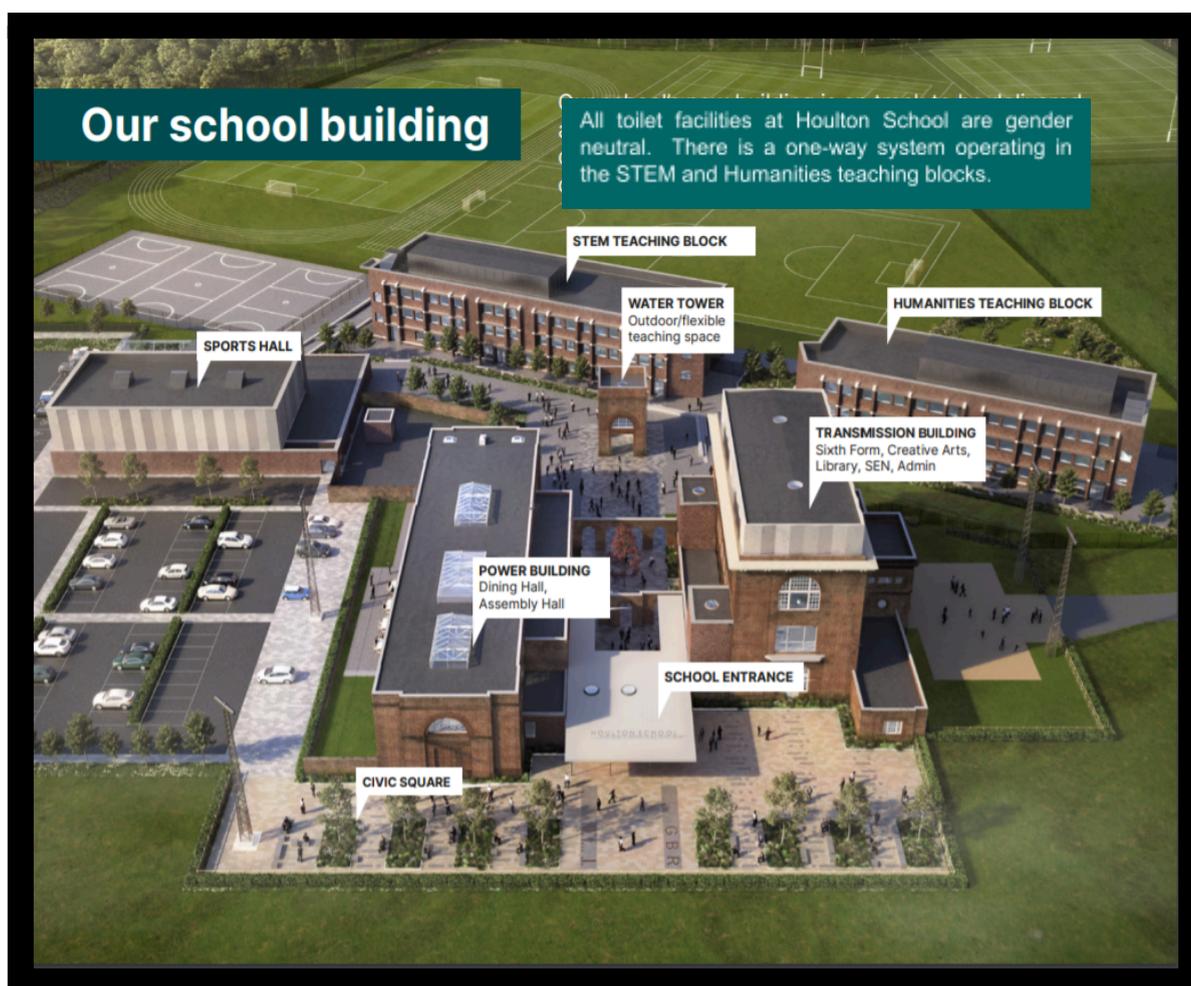
## What does Houlton School look like?

We have fabulous facilities at Houlton. We have our completely renovated Grade II listed buildings, which are almost 100 years old, as well as brand new facilities on campus. We have purpose built, state-of-the-art sport, dance, acting, science and computing facilities. We also have incredible art classrooms with a photography dark room and kiln room for those of you who like to be creative.

We are very lucky to have such a beautiful school campus and we will expect all our pupils to take really good care of it. Our school used to be an international radio station and at Houlton we have our very own Communications Centre, fully resourced with a library, radio and television broadcasting station. You will be among the first to broadcast from our new Houlton Radio station!

We have a wonderful refectory that you can use at break and lunchtimes whether you decide to eat a packed lunch or buy your lunch using our cashless payment system.

You can see in the picture below what our wonderful campus looks like:



## How will your day look at Houlton School?

Our current school day consists of 5 lessons per day, two tutor slots and two breaks for you to see your friends, join some of our fabulous enrichment opportunities and eat your lunch.

You will have a timetable that runs over two weeks and you will move around the site to each of your classes with different teachers for each subject.

Our current school day looks like this:



**8:30 am**

**Arrive on site**

8:40-8:50 am

Morning Registration

8:50-9:50 am

Period 1 lesson

9:50-10:50 am

Period 2 lesson

**10:50-11:10 am**

**Break**

11:10-12:10 pm

Period 3 lesson



**12:10-12:50 pm**

**Lunchtime**

12:50-1:50 pm

Period 4 lesson

1:50-2:50 pm

Period 5 lesson

2:50-3:10 pm

Assembly/Tutor Time

**3:10 pm**

**Lessons End**

*Our amazing 'Power Hall Refectory' where you can eat your lunch / socialise with your friends*

## FAQs

### What will the school uniform look like?

Our school uniform is very smart! You can see from the pictures below what our uniform looks like. Pupils can wear as many of our branded items as they would like; however, to help your parents with the cost of school uniform, the only items that must be branded are the Houlton bottoms (skirt/trousers/shorts of your choice), tie, blazer and P.E. top. Houlton pupils also wear school shoes (not trainers). We know you'll wear our Houlton family uniform with pride!





### **What enrichment opportunities will there be?**

We will have a fantastic enrichment programme with something for everyone. Enrichment will run at lunchtimes and after school. We will publish a list of our enrichment offer at the start of the Academic year so that you can choose what you would like to sign up for. Every pupil is expected to choose at least one thing but there are lots to choose from and most pupils want to pick far more than one!



### **Who will my tutor be?**

We are currently interviewing lots of very enthusiastic teachers who will join our family soon, alongside our current teachers and associate staff. Once these teachers have been confirmed, we will let you know who your tutor is. The good news is that you will have two tutors and a Head of Year to turn to if you ever need them.

### **What are the names of the Houlton School Colleges?**

Our Colleges are all named after pioneers of communication who are famous for doing something innovative in their field. You can see our College logos below and if you would like to get a head start, see if you can find out a little about each of the College Ambassadors.



### **What subjects will I study?**

All Year 7 pupils will have lessons in: English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Science, French, Spanish, Geography, History, Religious Studies, PHSRE, Acting, Art and Photography, Music, Computing, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Design Technology, PE and Dance.

### **What will lessons be like?**

Our lessons will all be taught by subject specialists and will be one hour long. Each teacher will provide you with challenging work and interesting learning. Don't worry though – we will give you any extra support or help that you may need. All our lessons will be engaging, and we hope fun!

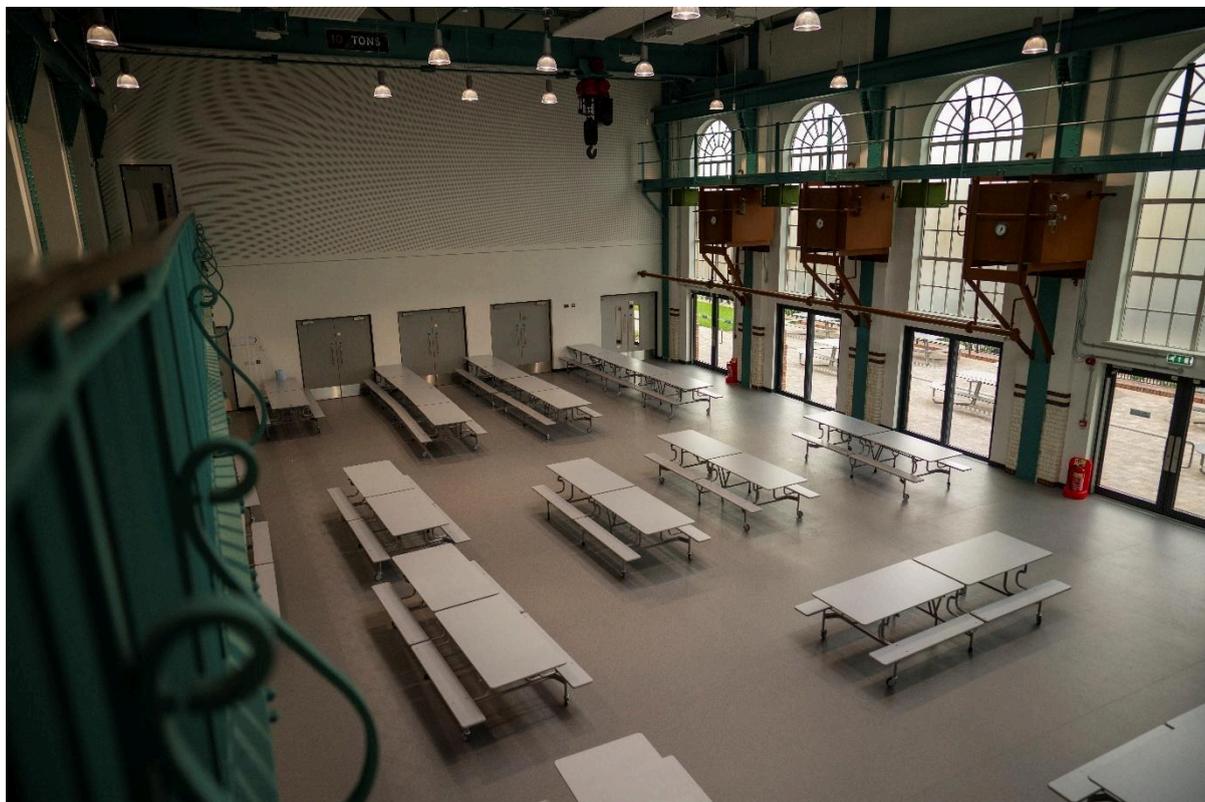


### **How much homework will I get?**

You will be expected to complete homework for every subject but we aim to avoid giving your homework with short deadlines. To help you to keep organised, you will be able to see any homework that you have been set on Edulink, which is our school information system. This can be accessed online or from a mobile/tablet device and your parents/carers will be able to support you as they will have access to the app on their devices too.

### **Can I buy food at the school and what is the food like?**

Absolutely! We have the fantastic 'Power Hall Refectory' offering a range of snacks and lunch options. Our school is cashless and we will make sure your parents/carers have set up your account well in advance. Equally you can bring your own lunch to school if you prefer. You will be able to eat in the refectory at either break or lunchtime and it is fabulous as you can see below.



### **Will I be with my friends from my primary school?**

There will be six classes in September and although you might not be with your friends in all your lessons you will be able to see them at break and lunchtime. Everyone at Houlton is really friendly so there is absolutely nothing to worry about: there will always be someone to help you if you get stuck, just ask for your form tutor or Head of Year if you are unsure.



### **How will my parents/carers know if I am doing well?**

We will regularly communicate with your parents/carers to talk to them about how you are doing. When you are given reward or consequence points your parents/carers will be able to see this on their Edulink app.

### **Can I use a mobile phone or electronic device at school?**

No, mobile phones and electronic devices are not permitted at school. If you live outside of the immediate Houlton community and would like to have a mobile phone available on your journey to school, that is okay. However, as soon as you arrive on campus, your device should be switched off. At tutor time your device will be collected by your tutor and locked in a secure place and you will be able to collect it during tutor time at the end of the day. Any devices seen during school hours (including during social times) will be retained by school staff and your parents/carers will need to collect them after school.

### **Can I cycle to school?**

Yes! You will need to apply for a bicycle permit and agree to some conditions that will keep you safe. Once your application has been processed, you will be allocated your own, personal bicycle bay. Further details will follow in future packs.

## **What equipment will I need to bring to school?**

All pupils will be expected to come prepared each day with the relevant books/kit needed in an appropriate bag. In addition, you will be expected to bring the following equipment in your pencil case:

- Two black ballpoint pens
- Two green ballpoint pens
- Two HB pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Ruler (at least 15cm long)
- Glue stick
- Two highlighters in different colours
- Maths set (protractor, set square and a compass with pencil)
- Calculator – 2 line display – either Casio fx-83GT Classwiz or Casio fx-83GTX
- Mini-whiteboard, whiteboard pen and mini board duster
- Please do **not** bring any form of scissors or bladed item to school – these will be provided if you need to use them

## **What will happen next?**

We will be working hard to get everything ready for you to join us in September.

Over the coming weeks we will be sending out lots of information to your parents/carers. They will have lots of forms to fill in so that we know everything that we need to about you and so that you have everything you need set up ready for September.

In the summer term we will come and see you at your primary school to talk to you about our transition events and to discuss with you and your primary school teachers the things you might need. You will be able to ask us any questions you might have.

When we meet you in the summer term we will bring you your own copy of our Houlton Transition Booklet, which has lots of useful information and challenges inside where you will have the chance to earn reward points before you even start at the school!

We hope that you have a fantastic end to your primary education and that you are looking forward to joining us in September. We very much look forward to meeting you very soon.

Head of School: Lorna Pountney

Executive Principal: Paul Brockwell



[www.houltonschool.org.uk/](http://www.houltonschool.org.uk/)

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