



**Houlton School**  
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**Michael McCulley**  
Principal

Registered in England  
Company number 07515832

20 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Summer Term Opportunities and Upcoming Events**

As we approach the start of the summer term, we would like to take this opportunity to give all parents/carers advance notice of some of the events coming up over the next few weeks, and to update you on some key information.

#### **Online Safety Parent/Carer Information Evening – Monday 6 March 5.15-6.45pm**

As parents/carers you will be aware of the enormous pressure on young people to use and interact with various online forums. A large proportion of the issues that we deal with in school relate to online behaviours and social media, and we remind pupils regularly that they should not be engaging with social media platforms until they are aged 13 or over. We are delighted that we have been able to secure some training for our staff and a guidance session for parents/carers which will be delivered by the Warwickshire County Council's Cyber Crime Advisor. The session will be focused on how young people can be groomed and radicalised online. Information will be shared on the latest social media apps and gaming trends to be aware of, as well as an insight into the dark web, how groomers use social media to radicalise young people and help and support that is available. This will be an invaluable session to enable parents/carers to keep abreast of the most current trends, dangers and warning signs relating to young people online. If you would like to attend the parent/carers session, please complete the booking form on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/JGyWD4cSo73YNRcm8>

#### **World Book Day**

Pupils will be taking part in some fantastic curriculum activities this term to celebrate World Book Day. We will be hosting the 'Big Book Swap' where pupils can trade books they have read for new titles or simply select a new title of their choice, all completely for free! Any books that are no longer needed



that pupils or parents/carers can donate would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be delivered by pupils to Mrs Warde's classroom at any time between Monday 27 February and Wednesday 1 March.

The Book Fair will also be coming to Houlton School this term. This is an exciting opportunity to browse and choose books to buy from a vast selection that will be here on site at Houlton. We are very lucky to have secured some heavily discounted prices and the list of books available and instructions on how to purchase a new title will be sent out on Edulink prior to the Book Fair arriving on **Monday 13 March**.

We will be sharing some of the fantastic World Book Day work and activities that pupils will be undertaking this term on our social media platforms for you to enjoy.



### Friends of Houlton School

We are delighted to have such a supportive and proactive Friends of Houlton School PTA who have raised significant funds for the school, including large contributions to support enrichment activities for all our pupils. The Friends of Houlton School would like to encourage all parents/carers especially those with children in Year 7 to join and be the voice of our Year 7 cohort. If you are interested in supporting the Friends of Houlton School, please contact them directly on [helloFOHS@gmail.com](mailto:helloFOHS@gmail.com) and they can give you more information on how you can be involved.

### Uniform Expectations

At Houlton we pride ourselves on our high expectations of pupils both in terms of conduct and appearance. We have started to notice a small number of pupils not wearing their uniform correctly. Could all parents/carers ensure that when pupils arrive back after half term that skirts are worn in accordance with our uniform policy (**on or below the knee**), that make up is not worn visibly and that pupils are wearing the correct school shoes. Pupils not wearing uniform correctly after half term will be asked to change into school trousers/shoes that are kept on site and may lose the privilege to wear the skirt if this persists. If you are purchasing new uniform and your child chooses to wear the skirt, please ensure that it has room for growth as pupils will not be permitted to wear skirts that are above knee length.

### Sex and Relationships Education Parent/Carer Consultation

As part of our statutory obligation to provide Sex and Relationship Education to all pupils we are currently reviewing our schemes of learning and creating a parent/carer guidance booklet to support families to continue discussions at home following Sex and Relationship Education sessions. We are keen to canvas the views of our parent/carer body to support us in ensuring all our pupils are given the right information at the right time and that families are confident in following up on the material that is being delivered. If you would like to take part in this consultation, please complete the link below and we will be in touch this term.

<https://forms.gle/c9o6BSmLfSh2GubDA>

## Who will I be? Aspiration Day

On **Tuesday 6 June** Houlton School will be hosting its first ever Aspiration focused Careers Day. This will be a fantastic opportunity for all pupils to explore future options and career paths as well as to develop their LORIC skills. Both Year 7 and 8 will be engaging in several carousel activities on the day which will be designed to support them in identifying potential future pathways and exposing them to new skills, careers and opportunities. All pupils as part of the day will have the opportunity to speak with people from a variety of backgrounds. We are hoping to utilise our parent/carer body and the local community to support us with this and give pupils exposure to a broad range of careers and fields of expertise. If you feel you could offer us your time on this day to discuss your career path to date / area of expertise, or you know someone in the community who you feel could, please fill in the form on the link below or pass the link on and we will be in touch. Alternatively, feel free to contact us on [hello@houltonschool.org.uk](mailto:hello@houltonschool.org.uk) If you would like further information.

<https://forms.gle/TCnF2V8AbDRWko8X8>

Thank you for your ongoing support, we look forward to the term ahead and to working with many of you on these exciting projects. We hope you have a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Monday 27 February**.

Yours faithfully



**Chloe Buckenham**  
Vice Principal