



Houlton School
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Lorna Pountney
Head of School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome your children back to school on **Wednesday, 2nd September!** Returning after the summer break is an exciting time, and we are eager to see our pupils reconnect with friends, engage in school activities, and dive straight back into their learning.

Staggered Start Times: Wednesday, 2nd September To ensure a smooth transition on our first day back, please note the staggered arrival times for each year group:

- **Years 7 & 12:** 8:40 AM
- **Years 9 & 11:** 9:35 AM
- **Years 8 & 10:** 10:45 AM

Even though our first week is short, these initial days are crucial. Pupils will receive vital key information and begin learning straight away, setting a strong foundation for the term ahead. New students will also have their biometrics completed.

Mobile Phone Policy & Phone Pouches From September, Houlton School will be a **mobile phone-free zone**, bringing us in line with updated statutory requirements introduced this year.

- If you have not already done so, please purchase your child's phone pouch via **ParentPay** as soon as possible. Purchased phone pouches will be handed out on the first day back.
- Pupils who do not have a designated phone pouch **will not be permitted to bring a mobile phone into school.**

Building Strong Routines & Attendance Establishing good habits early makes a significant difference to your child's success and well-being.

- **The Power of Routine:** Shifting from summer mode can be challenging. You can support your child by resetting their bedtime this week and reintroducing familiar morning routines.
- **Secondary & Exam Years:** Regular attendance is directly tied to progress and exam success. Missing even a few days can mean missing essential course content that is difficult to make up.

Supporting Your Child's Well-Being Starting a new year can feel daunting. Planning a calm, structured first morning back can help ease any nerves.

If your child is feeling anxious about returning, please reach out to us so we can work together on a plan to help them feel confident and supported. Likewise, if any obstacles to regular attendance arise at any point during the year, our door is always open to support your family. You can find our full attendance policy and mobile phone guidelines by visiting the policy section on our school website. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students thrive.

Warm regards,



Lorna Pountney
Head of School