



# HOULTON

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## SCHOOL



# Houlton School

Pupil Welcome Pack

Dear Founding Pupils

We are absolutely delighted to welcome you to Houlton School as our first ever cohort of pupils. My name is Mr McCulley and I am the Principal of the school. Both my Vice Principal, Miss Buckenham and I are really looking forward to welcoming you to Houlton. You will have a very special role in our new school as you will form the founding members of our Houlton Family, a legacy that will run through many generations to come. At Houlton School we have high expectations: excellence is expected in all aspects of behaviour and attitudes and you will be expected to always do your very best. We will expect you to always try to model our values: kindness, tenacity, courage, excellence and loyalty as much as you can so we can give you lots of rewards. At Houlton School we will support you in all aspects of school life. We will provide you with the very best teachers, facilities and opportunities to explore your interests. We are proud of our school and know that you will be too.

The past year has been a strange time for us all and we will be working hard over the summer term to ensure that you feel excited and ready for September. We know that some of you may feel a bit nervous about coming to secondary school but we know you will love Houlton as much as we do. We have lots of events coming up to help you settle in and we will be able to access our site in August and so providing the local restrictions have been lifted, we will be able to show you our fantastic site before you start.

We have now recruited our teachers who are all going to be amazing and when you join us in September you will each be part of a tutor group and one of our six brand new Colleges. There will be 180 pupils in our school in the first year, and as Year 7 pupils you will be supported by your very own Student Experience Leader who will be making sure everything is running smoothly for you.

We will be sending you lots more detail over the coming weeks but have some initial information in this pack for you to give you a taste of what is to come. Look after yourselves over the next few weeks and stay safe. We look forward to meeting you soon!



**Mr McCulley**  
Principal



**Miss Buckenham**  
Vice Principal

## 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 will 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 **brand new** campus will look like:



## How will your day look at Houlton School?

Your school day will consist of five 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.

This is what the school day will look like:



<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Arrive on site</b>
8:40-8:50	Morning Registration
8:50-9:50	Period 1 lesson
9:50-10:50	Period 2 lesson

### **10:50-11:10**      **Break**

11:10-12:10pm	Period 3 lesson
12:10-1:10	Period 4 lesson



### **1:10-1:50**      **Lunchtime**

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

1:50-2:50	Period 5 lesson
2:50-3:10	Assembly/Tutor Time

### **3:10 pm**      **Lessons End**

## FAQs

### **What will the school uniform look like?**

We are in the process of developing our new uniform and we will send you the details of our dress code in the coming weeks. To give you an idea, it is going to be very smart! There will be Houlton skirt/trouser/blazer and you will be expected to wear a tie and school shoes (not trainers). We also have a fantastic Houlton PE kit for you to wear during your PE and Dance lessons. All pupils will be expected to have their hair tied back neatly at all times unless it is cut in a short style. We know you'll wear our Houlton family uniform with pride!

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

We will have a fantastic enrichment programme with something for everyone. Enrichment will run at lunchtimes and after school. We will send you a list of our enrichment offer with your Transition Booklets in the summer term so you can choose what you would like to do.

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

We are currently interviewing lots of very enthusiastic teachers who will join our family soon. Once these teachers have been confirmed, we will let you know who your tutor is. This will be before the end of the summer term.

### **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 and Broadcast, 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 to do as we want to help you be as good as you can be in every subject. 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 and we will send you our homework timetable in advance so you know how much to expect. Some subjects will give you more homework than others and will have different deadlines but don't worry as you will be able to see this 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 will be 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 either in the refectory or in social areas.

### **Can I get involved with Student Leadership?**

Yes, definitely! All our Year 7 pupils will complete our accredited Student Leadership programme and will have the chance to apply to be a Prefect or Subject Ambassador.

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

There will be six classes starting with us in September. 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 call at Pupil Services and your Pupil Experience Leader will be on hand to help you.

### **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 and put away. 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 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)
- Scientific calculator
- Mini-Whiteboard, whiteboard pen and mini board duster

## **What will happen next?**

Once you have confirmed your place at Houlton School 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 for them to fill in so that we know everything that we need to about you and you have everything you need set up ready for September.

We will send our uniform list to your parents/carers as soon as it is ready with details of where to buy it from so you can get your uniform ready for September.

In the summer term we will come and see you at your primary school (don't worry - if local restrictions do not allow this we will meet you remotely!) to talk to you about our transition events that will start over the summer and to discuss with you and your primary school teachers the things you might need.

Our transition process will include making sure that you have the chance to ask us questions so don't worry if there is something you want to know that isn't covered in this pack. You will also get the chance to see the school site before you start with us in September.

When we meet you in the summer term we will bring you your own copy of our Houlton Transition Booklet, which has lots of 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.

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

### Contact information

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