

29 August 2024 Secondary – Return to School



Penshurst Primary School

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Dear parent / carer

The start of a new term is always an exciting one in schools. For those of us that benefit from an extended six-week break from normal routines, the start of September is almost like a new year, the chance to start afresh with optimism and new commitments to do better, be better and achieve more. In other words, a second chance to set new year resolutions. And to stick to them!

Please read the following carefully as it outlines several changes and reminders that are key to understand before your child returns to school next week.

Return to School Dates:

For staff, the new academic year begins on Monday 2 September and, this year, we will have two training days before students begin to return as follows:

- Monday 2 September and Tuesday 3 September Staff Training Days
- Wednesday 4 September students in Year 7 and 11 return to school
- Thursday 5 September all students return to school
- Sixth Form students return on Wednesday 4 September, Year 12 at 8:45am and Year 13 at 12:45pm

School Day:

There has been a slight change to the school day this year with an additional five minutes being added to the tutor period (8.35am to 9.00am). This means that the school day ends five minutes later for all students. Once again, to accommodate all students in the canteen, we will continue to operate a split break and lunch, as follows:

Cohort A (Year 7, 10, 12, 13 and 9 (abcd bands)	Activity	Cohort B (Year 8, 11 and 9 (efghi bands)	Activity
8.35 - 9:00	Tutor	8.35 - 9:00	Tutor
9:00 - 10:00	Period 1	9:00 - 10:00	Period 1
10:00 - 10.20	Break	10:00 - 11:00	Period 2
10.20 - 11.20	Period 2	11:00 - 11.20	Break
11.20 - 12.20	Period 3	11.20 - 12.20	Period 3
12.20 - 12:55	Lunch	12.20 - 13.20	Period 4
12:55 - 13:55	Period 4	13.20 - 14:00	Lunch
13:55 - 14:55	Period 5	14.00 - 15.00	Period 5

School Uniform:

There have been no substantive changes to our school uniform policy. As ever, we expect all students to wear appropriate uniform at all times. Any student that is not wearing the correct uniform will be challenged and uniform corrected. Your support with this is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding what is acceptable, please contact the school before making any purchases.

We also have high expectations in relation to jewellery and make-up and transgressions will also be challenged and expectations upheld. Please see the school uniform policy <u>HERE</u>

Equipment:

As students commence the new year, it is important that they are well prepared for learning. The best way to do this is to be organised and prepare for school the night before by packing a school bag with the expected equipment, the essentials of which include:

- 2 x black/blue pens
- 1 x green pen
- Pencil, eraser, ruler
- School planner

Mobile Phones:

As communicated to you several times last year, we have changed our mobile phone policy in line with the rest of our Trust schools and in accordance with Government guidance. In brief, mobile phones are not permitted to be seen or used anywhere on the school site. During the first week of term, students will be reminded that this is the case, without sanction. However, from the start of week 2, any student that does not comply with this will have their phone confiscated and parents/carers will be contacted to collect the phone. Once again, your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I wish to congratulate all our students who collected external A Level and GCSE results this summer (and their parents and wider families). Success in these exams means many different things to different people and, at Hessle High, we always strive to celebrate the effort that students put into their work. On GCSE results day, one of our students achieved a phenomenal twelve Grade 9s – a remarkable achievement which few students in the country would have equalled, let alone surpassed.

But we are equally proud of all students who secured their target grades, regardless of the number. The effort, dedication and resilience required to achieve aspirational targets is worthy of credit and we are proud of all our successful students.

Finally, as we embark upon another school year, I wish to thank you all in advance for what is always incredible support.

Yours faithfully

Mr V Groak Headteacher