



17th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term Letter July 2023

Message from Mr Downey, Head of School, including Term Dates, Safeguarding Reminders & Uniform Expectations

Following the fantastic GCSE and Post 16 Results in the summer and welcoming the largest intake of students in the last 5 years, it was an exciting year for the school. The clear improvements over the last few years have created a team of staff and students who are continuing to strive for excellence.

In my first year as Head of School, I would like to thank all of you as parents or carers for the support you have given the school throughout the year. I am proud to inform you I will be continuing in my role for the next academic year, with the continued support of Nicki Hodges, Executive Headteacher.

I have a clear vision for the future of the school and I am excited to welcome an even larger Year 7 intake in September, who will join a community of staff and students, where we endeavour to offer equal opportunities and deliver an ambitious curriculum so that we can celebrate students' achievements.

ParentPay - Message for Year 7 on Monday 4th September.

All new Year 7 students should be provided with a packed lunch on their first day of term (Monday 4th September). On this day all students will be set up on our cashless catering system, and will come home with a set-up letter which will enable parents to activate ParentPay and add funds to their child's account. Students will be required to bring a packed lunch until the account is activated and funds are added to the account.

Timetable Rollover

The timetable rollover, which took place on 3rd July, should ensure that the start of the new academic year is a smooth one. Students (except for Year 7 and 12) will all have experienced their new timetable and teachers for the last 3 weeks of the term and should already understand the routines expected of them.

Nut Free School

I would like to remind you that The Holmesdale School is a NUT FREE SCHOOL. We do have students and staff who have a severe nut allergy. We respectfully ask that you do not send your child into school with any products which contain nuts.

Last Day of Term 6 July 2023

Friday 21st July

Students to finish at 12:50pm

Students eligible for Free School Meals will be able to use their entitlement during morning breaktime. Parents/carers of students who travel home from school by taxi will need to inform the taxi company of the earlier finish time.

A member of Swale Academies Trust

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Registered in England No. 07344732



Executive Headteacher: Mrs N Hodges BA (Hons) MA
Acting Head of School: Mr L Downey BSc (Hons)



The term will end with a whole school Rewards Assembly, celebrating the students' achievements throughout the year.

Start of Term 1 September 2023

Friday 1st September **Staff INSET Day – No students in school**

Monday 4th September **Year 7, 11 and 12 back in school**

Tuesday 5th September **All year groups in school**

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming all students back in September for what will be another exciting year at The Holmesdale School.

Yours faithfully

Mr L Downey
Head of School

Safeguarding Reminders

There is a 'Worry Button' on the school website that directs students to the safeguarding team for any support they may need over the summer holidays.

Need help? For non-emergencies which you'd usually report to a teacher, call 101, or report incidents using their online form at www.kent.police.uk

Prefer to stay anonymous? Report crime, concerns or issues online at www.fearless.org If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for help.

School Police Officers will be patrolling popular hotspots frequented by young people to offer their help and support, and to tackle anti-social behaviour during the break. Feel free to approach them and chat if they don't look too busy!

Going swimming? Make sure to educate yourself before you hit the beach or are planning to go open water swimming by visiting the RNLI website www.rnli.org/safety

Need support for your mental health? Check out our wellbeing booklet on our website – link below:
<http://www.holmesdale.kent.sch.uk/download/get/wellbeing-booklet-255377098/42>



Uniform and Equipment Expectations

We believe that an excellent uniform is part of setting high academic standards and encourages students' self-confidence. Upon return to school in September students' uniform should be worn correctly both in and out of school. **Under no circumstances should false nails, false eyelashes or jewellery be worn.** Students will remain in the Inclusion room until the offending item is removed (exceptions are items which are worn for a medical need).

Below is a reminder of uniform expectations:

Girls

- Black blazer with the school badge
- Pleated plaid skirt (note skirts must not be rolled up) or plain black trousers (must not be boot-cut, skinny legged, tight-fitting, jeans etc.)
- Black socks or black tights
- Plain white shirt with collar (long or short sleeved)
- School tie (that conceals top button)
- Plain black leather shoes (not plimsolls, canvas shoes, trainers, sandals, or boots etc.)

Boys

- Black blazer with the school badge
- Plain black trousers - straight legged (must not be boot-cut, skinny legged, tight-fitting, jeans etc.)
- Plain white shirt with collar (long or short sleeved) that must be kept tucked in
- School tie (that conceals top button)
- Plain dark socks
- Plain, black, leather shoes (not plimsolls, canvas shoes, trainers, sandals or boots etc.)

As part of our ECCO values, we stress the importance of organisation. Students are expected to be ready to learn when they return to school. The following items are the minimum expectation for all students:

- Black or Blue Pen
- Green Pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler