



17th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term 6 July 2024

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

After nearly two decades at The Holmesdale School, a very special chapter in my life is coming to a close. As you may know, I will be transitioning from my role as Head of School to Deputy Headteacher at the end of this term.

Leading this wonderful school has been an immense honour and privilege. Together, we've achieved so much, and I am incredibly proud of the strong, vibrant school community we've built. Witnessing your children grow and flourish has been truly rewarding.

While my position may change, my dedication to Holmesdale remains unwavering. I will continue to be deeply committed to ensuring all students reach their full potential, regardless of my title.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you – the dedicated staff, the enthusiastic students, and the supportive parents. You are the backbone of Holmesdale, and I am immensely grateful for the trust and collaboration we've shared.

I look forward to continuing to support all students at The Holmesdale School, albeit in a different capacity.

Thank you once again.

ParentPay - Message for Year 7 on Tuesday 3rd September.

All new Year 7 students should be provided with a packed lunch on their first day of term (Tuesday 3rd 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.

New Lesson Times and Lunch Arrangements

Due to the increasing number of students in school next year, there will be changes to the lunch arrangements, which in turn alter the lesson times slightly.

All students will have lunch at the same time, however there will be 2 'sittings'. In order to ensure all students have appropriate time to eat their lunch, there will be set times each year group can purchase food from the canteen. These are as follows:

First sitting	12:45 - 13:05	Years 7, 8, 12 & 13
Second Sitting	13:05 - 13:25	Years 9, 10 & 11

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)

Please see below the lesson times from 3rd September 2024

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Period	Start Time	End Time
1	8.45	9.40
2	9.40	10.35
BREAK	10.35	10.55
3	10.55	11.50
4	11.50	12.45
LUNCH	12.45	13.25
5	13.25	14.20
6	14.20	15.15

Wednesday

Period	Start Time	End Time
1	8.45	9.40
2	9.40	10.30
BREAK	10.30	10.50
3	10.50	11.40
4	11.40	12.30
ECCO	12.30	12.55
LUNCH	12.55	13.35
5	13.35	14.25
6	14.25	15.15

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 2024

Tuesday 23rd July

Students to finish at 12:50pm

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

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

Start of Term 1 September 2024

Monday 2nd September

Staff INSET Day – No students in school

Tuesday 3rd September

Year 7, 11 and 12 back in school

Wednesday 4th 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

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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.)
- Plain black socks (to be worn under the knee and with no embellishments such as bows) 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.)
- Sensible dark coloured coat (no hoodies, tracksuit tops or jumpers allowed)

Boys

- Black blazer with the school badge
- Plain black trousers - straight legged (must not be boot-cut, skinny legged, tight-fitting, jeans etc. Belt buckles must be moderate, plain and without logos)
- Plain white shirt with collar (long or short sleeved) that must be kept tucked in
- School tie (that conceals top button)
- Plain dark socks

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- Plain, black, leather shoes (not plimsolls, canvas shoes, trainers, sandals or boots etc.)
- Sensible dark coloured coat (no hoodies, tracksuit tops or jumpers allowed)

Students are also expected to be equipped for school with the appropriate stationary. This includes a minimum of two black pens, a green pen, pencil and a ruler.

Sanctions will be given for persistent uniform and equipment issues.