



9th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Behaviour and Culture: A Positive Start to the New School Year

We are delighted with the positive start that students have made to the new school year at Withernsea High School.

Across the school, we have seen many students demonstrating our values and making a positive start to their learning. Our shared expectations are designed to help every student learn, feel safe, achieve and enjoy their time at school, and we are grateful to parents and carers for their continued support.

Our school values remain at the heart of everything we do:

- We are Ambitious.
- We are Respectful.
- We are Responsible.
- We are Kind.

Recognising Positive Behaviour

We believe that positive behaviour should be recognised and celebrated. Throughout the year, students will have a range of opportunities to receive recognition and rewards for making positive choices.

These include:

- **Head of Year Rewards Box:** Students who demonstrate positive effort, good behaviour and our school values can be selected each week for the opportunity to choose a reward.
- **Positive behaviour points and recognition** for students consistently demonstrating our expectations and values.
- **Rewards and celebration assemblies** in recognition of the hard work, effort and commitment students show in school and an opportunity to share this with parents and carers.
- **Attendance recognition** for students who achieve strong attendance or improved attendance and demonstrate a commitment to being in school every day.
- **Recognition for punctuality** and being ready to learn.
- **Rewards trips** across year groups will be presented to students and communicated with parents throughout the year to reward students working hard and having a positive attendance record.
- **Year 8 Duty Students:** Year 8 students can gain valuable work experience by volunteering to assist staff with the day-to-day running of the school. This provides an opportunity to develop new skills and make a positive contribution to the school community.

We want students to understand that making the right choices matters and that positive behaviour, excellent attendance and a strong attitude to learning will be rewarded.

Mobile Free School

We would like to thank parents and carers for the support you have shown with our Mobile Free School expectation.

This expectation is consistent with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools, which came into effect on 29th June 2026 and is expected to be followed by schools in England from September 2026. The guidance sets a clear expectation that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, with students not having access to their mobile phones throughout the school day.

Students are required to turn their mobile phone off and place it in their school bag before they enter the school site or before they get off the bus.

Phones must remain switched off and out of sight throughout the school day, unless a member of staff has given specific permission for a student to use one.

A copy of the school's mobile phone policy can be found on the school website.

At a glance:

- Phones must be switched off and placed in school bags before students enter the school site.
- The school site begins and ends at the end of the school drive.
- If travelling by bus, phones must be switched off and placed in bags before students get off the bus.
- Phones must remain in bags until students leave the school site.
- Students should not get their mobile phone out until they are off the school site or on a bus.
- If there is an emergency and a student needs to contact home, they should speak to their Head of Year. If a parent or carer needs to contact their child in an emergency, they should do so via the school office.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations. Removing mobile phones from the school day helps us to maintain a calm, focused and purposeful environment where students can concentrate on their learning and interact positively with their peers and staff.

We recognise that this is an important change for some students and families, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation as we establish this as a consistent school-wide expectation.

After School Detentions

If students do not follow our expectations, as outlined in the Behaviour for Learning Policy, an After School Detention may be issued.

After School Detentions are recorded on ClassCharts, where students and parents/carers can find details of the detention, including the reason for it.

Please note that After School Detentions cannot be moved or rearranged. In exceptional circumstances, a detention may be rearranged if the school has been provided with evidence of a medical appointment before the scheduled detention.

If a student fails to attend an After School Detention, they will be placed in our Flexible Provision classroom the following day and will receive a Headteacher's After School Detention until 4.30pm on the following Friday.

Attendance

This year we continue to place a strong emphasis on the importance of good attendance. Through our Attendance Live assemblies every Monday morning, we have been reminding students that every lesson matters and that regular attendance is one of the most important things they can do to support their learning, progress and future opportunities.

It can be easy to think that missing the occasional day does not make much difference, but small amounts of absence quickly add up. With four lessons taking place each day, the impact across a school year can be significant:

- 95% attendance = around 10 school days missed, meaning approximately 40 lessons missed.
- 90% attendance = around 20 school days missed, meaning approximately 80 lessons missed.
- 85% attendance = around 29 school days missed, meaning approximately 116 lessons missed.

This is why our message is simple: Every Day Counts.

We understand that children will sometimes be unwell or unable to attend school. However, where a child is well enough to attend, we ask parents and carers to support us by ensuring they are in school, on time and ready to learn every day.

Across all year groups, we celebrate and recognise excellent and improved attendance. Our new Form Attendance Leagues give tutor groups the opportunity to compete against others in their year group, with the winning form each week receiving the Form Attendance Trophy.

At the end of the first half term, the overall Attendance League winner in each year group will receive additional rewards, including a non-uniform day and a special session on our Inflatables Day.

Recent rewards have included a prize draw for students who achieved 100% attendance throughout September, with five £50 vouchers up for grabs, and an extended lunch break for Year 7 in recognition of the cohort's consistently strong attendance.

Ultimately, good attendance is about much more than competitions and rewards. It gives every young person the opportunity to experience the full curriculum, maintain positive routines, build relationships and make the progress they are capable of.

We ask all parents and carers to work with us in making attendance a priority. Attend every day, arrive on time and make the most of every opportunity to succeed.

The start of the year has provided us with a strong foundation. Our focus now is on maintaining high standards and ensuring that positive behaviour becomes the norm for every student, every day.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that students at Withernsea High School are ambitious, respectful, responsible and kind and are given every opportunity to succeed.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M R Crofts
Headteacher