



# HOULTON

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## SCHOOL



# Houlton School

Year 7 Pupil Welcome Pack

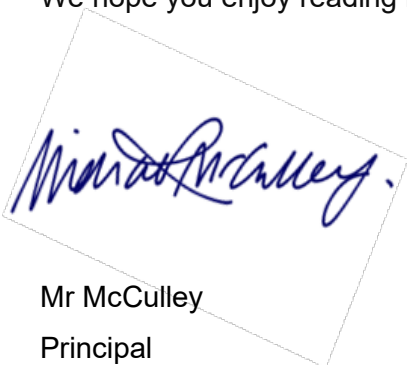
2025-26

Dear Pupils

We are absolutely delighted to welcome you to Houlton School. 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 join the current members of our Houlton Family as the fifth ever year group to join us, 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.

We know that some of you may feel a bit nervous about coming to secondary school but we are confident that you will love Houlton as much as we do. We have lots of events coming up to help you settle in and you will all get a chance to visit us in the summer term before you join us in September. You will each be part of a tutor group and one of our six Colleges and will be allocated your very own pupil buddy from our current Year 7 cohort. Your buddy will be in the same College as you and will support you in your transition into secondary school. There will be 180 pupils in your year group, and as Year 7 pupils you will be supported by your very own Pupil Experience Leader who will make sure everything is running smoothly for you.

We will be in touch over the coming weeks with more information about your transition to Houlton School and have enclosed some information for you in this pack to get you started. We hope you enjoy reading it and are really looking forward to meeting you soon.



Mr McCulley  
Principal

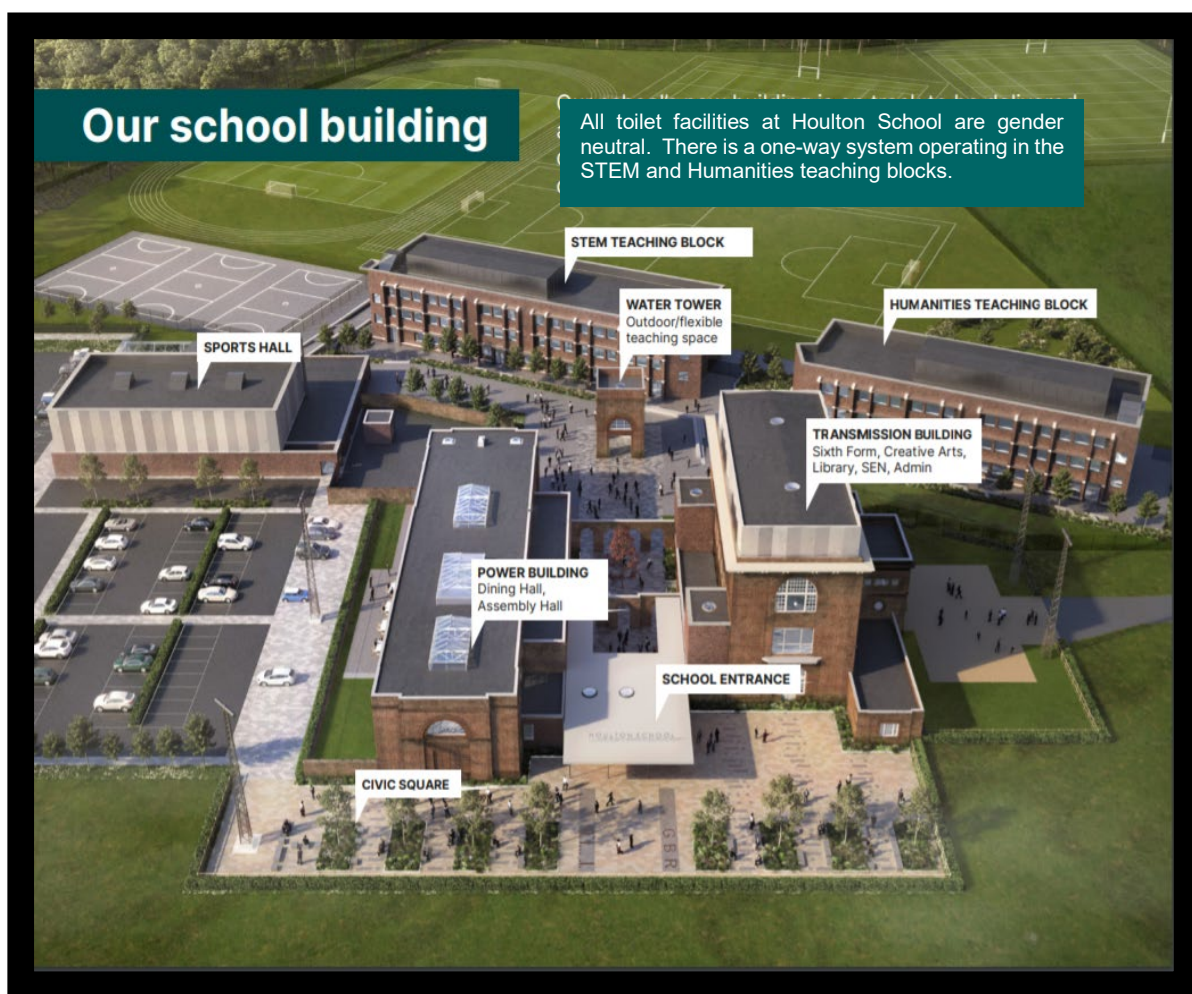
## What does Houlton School look like?

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 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 wonderful campus looks 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:



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

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Arrive on site</b>
8:40-8:50 am	Morning Registration
8:50-9:50 am	Period 1 lesson
9:50-10:50 am	Period 2 lesson
<b>10:50-11:10 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
11:10-12:10 pm	Period 3 lesson
<b>12:10-12:50 pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>
12:50-1:50 pm	Period 4 lesson
1:50-2:50 pm	Period 5 lesson
2:50-3:10 pm	Assembly/Tutor Time
<b>3:10 pm</b>	<b>Lessons End</b>

## FAQs

### What will the school uniform look like?

Our school uniform is very smart! You can see from the pictures below what our uniform looks like. Pupils wear a Houlton skirt/trouser/shorts/blazer and you will be expected to wear a tie and school shoes (not trainers). 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!



We also have a fantastic Houlton PE kit for you to wear during your PE and Dance lessons that you can see below.



**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. Every pupil is expected to choose at least one thing but there is lots to choose from and most pupils want to pick far more than one!



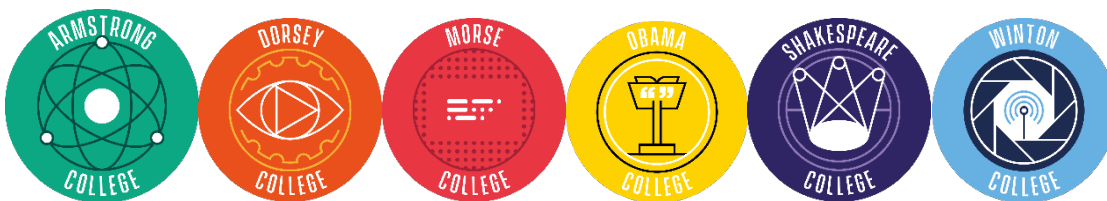


### **Who will my tutor be?**

We are currently interviewing lots of very enthusiastic teachers who will join our family soon alongside our current teachers and associate staff. 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 are the names of the Houlton School Colleges?**

Our Colleges are all named after pioneers of communication and are famous for doing something innovative in their field 'first'. You can see our College logos below and if you would like to get a head start, see if you can find out a little about each of the College Ambassadors.



### **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!



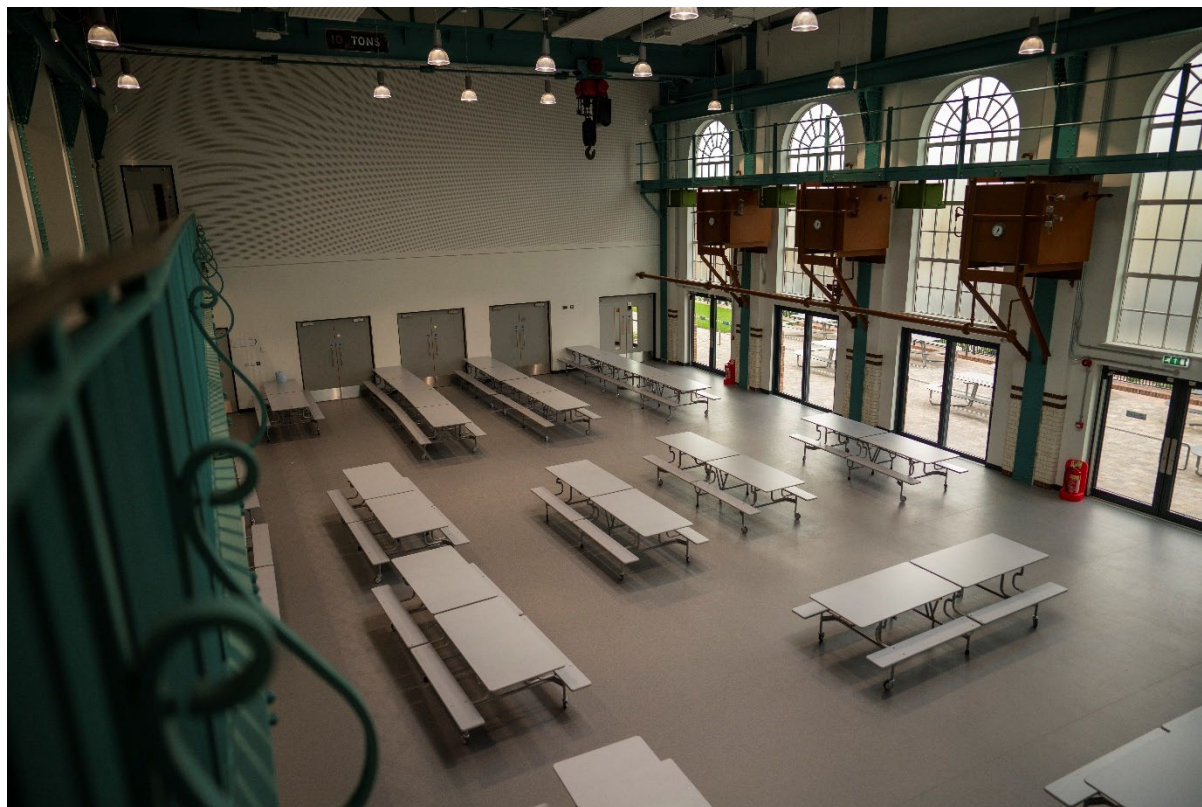
### **How much homework will I get?**

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 in the refectory at either break or lunchtime and it is fabulous as you can see below.



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

Yes, definitely! All our Year 7 pupils will complete our accredited Pupil Leadership programme PiXL Edge. Everyone will have the chance to apply to be a College Captain as well as being part of our weekly Pupil Fora. There are lots of other opportunities to represent the school that you can put yourself forward for such as becoming an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, working on the Eco PiXL Green team, helping out at school events and many more!

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

There will be six classes in September and 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 Mrs Cuncliffe 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. At tutor time your device will be collected in by your tutor and locked in a secure place and you will be able to collect it during tutor time at the end of the day. 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)
- Calculator – 2 line display – either Casio fx-83GT Classwiz or Casio fx-83GTX
- Mini-whiteboard, whiteboard pen and mini board duster
- Please do **not** bring any form of scissors or bladed item to school – these will be provided if you need to use them

## **What will happen next?**

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 to fill in so that we know everything that we need to about you and so that you have everything you need set up ready for September.

In the summer term we will come and see you at your primary school to talk to you about our transition events and to discuss with you and your primary school teachers the things you might need. You will be able to ask us any questions you might have.

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



Principal: Michael McCulley FCCT, FRSA

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

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