



Awarded gold in the Sheffield school games 2022/23



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all looking forward to the half term break and I hope all our students enjoy a relaxing break after their incredibly positive attitude to the start of the academic year.

I am very proud of the start to this new academic year we have had at Handsworth Grange and incredibly proud of this wonderful community. The students have returned with a very positive attitude to their learning and wider school life.

We started a new approach to enrichment this year and I am pleased to report that we have had just over 2800 students attending sessions either before, or after school. That is a wonderful statistic to be able to share and something we want to build on further. We will be setting up, and sharing with parents and students, a reward system for students who attend enrichment as I firmly believe that we need to offer all our students the chance to try new activities and meet new people as part of their school journey.

We have started our comprehensive Intervention Sessions for Year 11 in preparation for their exams over the course of the year and I am pleased to share that we have had on average 200 students a week attending a wide variety of intervention classes, which is a fantastic start to their final year at Handsworth Grange.

We will continue to work tirelessly to provide the very best education our community deserves and to also work alongside parents to build on the development priorities of our school.

Our values at Handsworth continue to be an integral part of the work we do with all our students this year, these values are:

***Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Present***

We will be promoting these every day, in all areas of our school community.

I want to take this opportunity to remind all our parents of our uniform guidelines, further information of this can be found on our website. We promote an ethos of high expectations and high standards. We expect all our pupils to wear the correct uniform so they look smart, ready to learn and achieve and be successful. This also includes ensuring all our students are prepared to learn and are equipped to do this. Leggings will not be permitted, and students will be required to change into some trousers provided by school, in the same vein, students must wear skirts of an appropriate length. If they are not wearing an appropriate skirt, they will be asked to change into one provided by school.



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All pupils should bring the following equipment to school every day:

- School bag big enough to hold an A4 folder
- School planner
- Pencil case filled with: pens, pencils, rubber, ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Reading book

More recently some of our students are coming into school with small, dress style handbags. These are not suitable for school, and they do not provide students with the required space for their equipment, as noted above. The bags need to be big enough to carry an A4 folder/book, or a PE kit. We are giving students plenty of notice to rectify this over the half term break. If students do not bring a suitable bag into school, they will be provided with an alternative to use for the day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that attendance is taken very seriously at Handsworth. It is a proven fact that attendance is directly linked to academic success, it will also form part of our rewards systems in school. We actively encourage all our students to achieve 100% with a minimum expectation of 97% every day, every lesson counts. We are grateful for all you do at home to support both attendance and punctuality, it is an important life skill that students need for their lives beyond school. We are passionate about ensuring all our students fulfil their potential and maximise their educational experiences by having outstanding attendance.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school, and I am extremely excited for what this academic year will bring. I am very much looking forward to the journey of improvement we are on together.

Yours sincerely

Suzy Mattock  
Headteacher