



Awarded gold in the Sheffield school games 2022/23



24 October 2024

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 continue to be incredibly proud of this wonderful community. The students have returned with a very positive attitude to their learning and wider school life.

We started our busy enrichment programme much earlier this year and I am pleased to share that we have had over 400 students a week attending sessions either before, or after school. Enrichment offers our students the access to a range of different activities with other year groups and broadens their experiences at school. I encourage all our students to take part in an enrichment activity and to try something new!

We have also started our comprehensive intervention sessions for Year 10 and Year 11 in preparation for their exams over the course of the year. I am pleased to share that we have had on average 180 students a week attending a wide variety of intervention classes, which is a fantastic start to their examination year at Handsworth Grange. We have also completed our first period of trial exams, and the Year 11 conduct has been exemplary.

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 and run through everything we do at school, these values are:

Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Present

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, they are ready to learn and achieve and they are successful. This also includes ensuring all our students are prepared to learn and are equipped to do this. Leggings will not be permitted, students will be required to change into trousers/skirts provided by the school, 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.



Awarded gold in the Sheffield school games 2022/23



All pupils should bring the following equipment every day:

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that attendance is taken very seriously at Handsworth Grange. It is a proven fact that attendance is directly linked to academic success, and this was increasingly apparent with the GCSE results last summer. We have extensive reward systems running every week around attendance for all students in school. We actively encourage all our students to achieve 100% with a minimum expectation of 97%. Every day, every lesson counts. If a student arrives to school after 9.10am they will be given a 'U' mark, and this does not count for the morning registration mark; they will get 50% attendance for that day; this is in line with LA guidelines. 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.

Finally, as I am sure you are all aware, the parking and congestion on Handsworth Grange Road at the end of the day is increasingly concerning. The limited parking spaces make it difficult for parents to safely drop off or pick up their children. Many are forced to double-park or stop in areas not designated for parking (yellow school zone), which not only creates increased congestion but also increases the risk of accidents. This situation can be especially hazardous for students crossing the street or walking near the school during busy times. The Sports Centre car park (on Beaver Hill Road) is open at the end of the day, with ample turning and parking spaces; students are also able to leave the site via the rear entrance at the end of the day. If you do collect your child by car, I would kindly ask you to consider using the rear car park to help reduce congestion on Handsworth Grange Road.

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 continued journey of improvement we are on together.

Yours sincerely

Suzy Mattock



Awarded gold in the Sheffield school games 2022/23



Headteacher

