



Teesside High School
Education as it should be

Parent Handbook



Senior School
2023-24

www.teessidehigh.co.uk

A Word of Welcome

Welcome to Teesside High School - an intentionally small community with traditional values. Our caring, friendly and lively setting provides a perfect environment in which your son or daughter can flourish. We provide an individualised learning journey through a combination of rigorous academic challenges and nurturing support and strive to ensure that every boy and girl moves on to the next stage of their education as self-confident, inquiring, creative, tolerant, independent thinkers.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a complete insight into the routines which exist in the Senior School, so that you will have a good idea of what to expect when your child first joins us or moves into their new year group. We hope it will help you understand how the school operates and we request that you keep it for future reference. Regular newsletters and emails will keep you informed of any changes.

We are delighted that you have joined a thriving school; a community with a strong heartbeat. You are now part of the THS family where we all look out for each other. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Please feel free to contact school if you have any questions or problems - we can only achieve our aim of bringing out the best in your child if we are working in a close partnership with you and we do hope that you will become an integral part of our community so that the relationship between home and school is a strong, open and productive one.

Best wishes,



Mrs K Mackenzie, Head



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Term dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

- Term commences Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 8.40am
- Half term starts on Friday 20 October at 4.00pm and term recommences on Monday 6 November at 8.40am.
- Term ends Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 2.00pm

Spring Term

- Term commences Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 8.40am
- Half term starts on Friday 16 February at 4.00pm and term recommences on Monday 26 February at 8.40am.
- Term ends Friday 22 March 2024 at 4.00pm

Summer Term

- Term commences Monday 15 April 2024 at 8.40am
- Half term starts on Thursday 23 May at 4.00pm and term recommences on Monday 3 June at 8.40am.
- Term ends Friday 5 July 2024 at 2.00pm

Events

Autumn Term: Open Day, New Parents' Evening, Year 7 Open Evening, Sixth Form Open Evening, Remembrance Day, Speech Day, Winter Music Concert, Christmas Market.

Spring Term: Open Day, Careers Convention, Scholarship Assessment Week, Comic Relief, Senior School Production.

Summer Term: Creative Arts Evening, Pastoral Day, Year 11 Prom, Year 13 Leavers' Ball, Sports Day, Whole School Rewards Trip, Celebration of Achievement.

Senior School staff

Mrs E Machan	Head of Art
Mrs R Kirk	Head of Biology
Mrs N Jackson	Biology
Mr A Aberdeen	Business Studies & Economics
Mrs V Boothroyd	Head of Business Studies & Economics
Ms H Davison	Chemistry
Mrs H Walton	Head of Chemistry
Mrs K Furness	Head of Drama (also, LAMDA Speech & Drama lessons)
Mr P Clarke	English (Assistant Head for Assessment & Progress)
Miss J Duffy	Head of English
Miss S Leighton	English
Mrs L Reid	English; Head of Woodside House
Mrs K Howard	Food and Nutrition

Mrs E Donovan	Head of Geography
Mr A Meyerhoff	History & RE (Assistant Head for Teaching & Learning), DSL
Miss A O'Byrne	Head of History & RE
Mrs L Blyth	Modern Foreign Languages
Mrs H Butterfield	Head of Modern Foreign Languages
Mrs S Burns	Modern Foreign Languages
Miss R Ignirri	Modern Foreign Languages; Librarian
Miss I Malik	Latin & Classics
Mrs K Mardon	Head of Mathematics
Mrs G Turnbull	Mathematics
Miss A Aunger	Mathematics & Business Studies
Mr S Atkinson	Mathematics & Computing (Assistant Head for Curriculum & Staffing)
Mrs E Shevels	Director of Music (also Peri Music Lessons)
Mr P Wing	Music
Mr N Thomas	PE & RE, Head of Victoria House
Miss V Turnbull	Director of Sport
Mr R Williamson	PE & Geography, Head of Cleveland House
Mrs C Rodgers	PE
Miss N Stephens	PE; Deputy Head (Pastoral), Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Mr D Edwards	Physics
Ms S Goodman	Head of Physics
Mr D Duncalfe	Head of Design Technology
Mr A Hannah	Head of Psychology & Criminology, Head of Sixth Form
Mr D List	SENCo (Assistant Head for Inclusion); DSL
Mrs J Connolly	Pastoral Support Officer; DSL.

Home/school communication

We believe the education of your child is a joint venture between parents and staff, and when we work together the results have a positive impact on your child's development and learning. A successful partnership is vital and you are actively encouraged to participate in school life.

EduLink

All parents are able to view live information about their child via their personalised account on the online platform, EduLink One. This will include a copy of your child's timetable, homework issued and whether completed or deadline due by and any merits/demerits they have been awarded. EduLink also provides the facility for parents to report an absence from school if they are unwell, book parents' evening appointments, view written reports and email your child's teachers.

Receiving letters

The school aims to run a paperless communication system. To ensure you receive all important information, please check your emails and EduLink account daily. Please inform the school if you change your email address, or update this directly using EduLink.

Newsletter

Our school newsletter, THiS Week, is produced throughout the term and is sent to all parents via an email link. THiS Week publishes details of school activities and individual successes, as well as important general information for parents.

Points of contact

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries. There will always be a member of staff willing to talk to you should you have any worries about your child's education or welfare. All pastoral matters should be directed in the first instance to the Form Teacher, whilst queries relating to learning in your child's subject areas should be to the subject teacher or Head of Department for that subject. If you feel you are unable to resolve a matter at this level please feel free to make an appointment to see either the Pastoral Support Officer or the Deputy Head, or in the case of an academic concern, one of our Assistant Heads (Teaching and Learning, Assessment and Progress or Curriculum and Staffing (for queries regarding timetables/options)).

Form Tutors

Your child's form tutor will be your first port of call to go to with any issues affecting their school, and at times, outside school life. Any medical, health, family, friendship issues or sometimes other less specific issues around your child's happiness and wellbeing should be directed to their tutor. They will see your child every day, for registration and then for extended tutor time on Monday and Friday. They will remain their tutor from Years 7-11 and from Year 12-13 and will get to know them very well to be able to support them through their time with us. They will contact you within the first week of your child joining their tutor group to establish a communications channel and will become an integral part of the home/school working partnership. All tutors can be contacted using their email addresses as detailed in our section below.

Pastoral Support Officer

Our Pastoral Support Officer, Mrs Jodie Connolly, is a non-teaching, full-time member of support staff who oversees our team of form tutors. She will work to support your child with any concerns which might not be able to be managed by their tutor. Mrs Connolly has an office on the main teaching wing and is available for students to 'drop in'. She oversees and monitors behaviour (both positive and negative) and is a Safeguarding Lead. She can be contacted via jconnolly@teessidehigh.co.uk

The Administration Team

Just inside the front door of the Prep School, you will find our School Office and our warm and welcoming Administration Team. They know everything about the school and would be delighted to meet and help you.

The Finance Manager

All enquiries concerning fees and charges are handled by the Finance Department. Our Finance Manager, Mrs Louise McCann can be contacted directly by telephone or email; lmccann@teessidehigh.co.uk

Email Addresses

All members of the teaching staff have an email address that parents can use as a means of communication. These are preceded by their first initial followed by their surname@teessidehigh.co.uk. For example: satkinson@teessidehigh.co.uk. These are stored automatically in the Edulink app and messages can be sent quickly and easily to all teaching staff.

Security

As part of our arrangements to ensure the safety and security of pupils and staff within school, we must insist that all visitors report to the School Office, collect a visitors badge and sign in. From this point, the member of staff that you are visiting will meet you. When in the school please wear your visitors badge at all times so that the children know you are an official visitor.

In the interests of security, all entrances into the school are fitted with a key card lock. Our Senior School students will be issued with a personal key card. This will allow them to access all buildings and collect printing in school. It is important that this key card is kept safe, worn everyday and any losses reported as soon as they occur.

Safeguarding

At Teesside High School, pupil safety and welfare is our priority. Safeguarding refers to how we protect children from maltreatment, prevent impairment of children's health or development and ensure that children are growing up in safe and effective care which allows them to fulfil their potential and enter adulthood successfully.

If you are worried about any type of Safeguarding or Child Protection issue, you must talk to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. If you cannot reach a DSL urgently, all members of staff are trained to be able to help. The DSL or staff member will listen to you and may take some notes about what you tell them. They will pass the information on to the person with overall responsibility for Safeguarding which is Miss Stephens, or her deputy, Mrs Williams. If you need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Members of Teesside High School staff with responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding:

Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss N Stephens, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead including Early Years, Mrs C Williams, Director of Prep

Other Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs A Hannah (Early Years), Pre-Prep Teacher

Mrs J Connolly, Pastoral Support Officer

Mr A Meyerhoff, Assistant Head

Mr D List, Assistant Head

The school's Nominated Governor for Safeguarding is Mr C Watson.

Breakfast Club

Children may be brought to school from 7.45am via the Dining Hall Entrance to join our Breakfast Club, **with the last arrival time being 8.15am**. They will be supervised by experienced Teaching Assistants until 8.25am, when they leave for registration. Children may purchase food and drink during Breakfast Club, £1.50 should be more than sufficient. There is

no need to pre-book a place for your child at Breakfast Club and there is no additional charge for this facility.

Tea Club

At Teesside High School, we provide flexible After School Care. Children are supervised by Teaching Assistants and Supervisors from 3.30pm-6.00pm. Again there is no need to pre-book a place for your child and there is no additional charge for this facility until 5.00pm. **Parents wishing to use this facility can collect children from 4.45pm onward**. This will enable us to control the volume and flow of traffic on site at the end of the day.

Tea Club takes place in the Prep School building. During this time children can participate in a number of activities, complete quiet study or finish homework.

Parents wishing to collect their child from Tea Club should report to the School Office in the Prep building or ring the bell to gain attention and your child will be handed over to your care in the Atrium. Please note that an additional fee is incurred if your child has not been collected by 6.00pm.

Arrival and collection of your child

At THS we have a variety of arrival points as well as staggered collection times for different age groups within our school to help us to control the volume and flow of traffic on site. Unless attending Breakfast Club, your child should arrive at school at **8.30am**.

School bus service

Pupils using the school bus service will be escorted onto their bus by a member of staff at 4.05pm, in readiness for a 4.10pm departure.

If your child wishes to use the school bus on an ad-hoc basis, 24 hours' notice must be given to Reception in order to update registers and notify the transport team.

Please note that at the end of the day, cars will not be permitted on site until 4.15pm to help us to control the volume and flow of traffic on site to ensure your child's safety. If parental permission has been provided, Senior School pupils can walk off site to meet their parents nearby.

Collection for those travelling by car will be at 4.15pm prompt. You will be directed to a car parking space at the front of school, and your child will be directed out of school by a member of

the Senior Leadership Team. If you have children in any of the younger year groups, they will be brought to your car at the same time.

The School Day

The start of the day is an important time at school as it is when information is shared with students about the activities and events that are going to take place during the day. Pupils are therefore expected to arrive promptly so that they have a settled start to the day. Any children who arrive late (after the end of registration) must sign in at the School Office.

7.45am	Breakfast Club (optional) (latest arrival 8.15am)
8.40am	Start of the school day
8.40am-8.50am	Registration Period with Form Tutor
8.55am	Lesson 1 (Tues, Weds, Thurs)/Extended Tutor Time (Mon/Fri)
9.50am	Lesson 2
10.45am	Break
11.05am	Lesson 3
12.00pm	Lesson 4
1.00pm	Lunch
2.05pm	Lesson 5
3.00pm	Lesson 6 (Mon/Fri)/Co-curricular (Tues/Weds/Thurs)
4.00pm	End of the school day
4.00pm-6.00pm	Tea Club provision (optional, with a small fee after 5.00pm)

Break

Pupils are welcome to buy healthy snacks or breakfast items from the Dining Hall during their 20 minute break time. A small amount of change is sufficient for this; cash or card is taken in the Dining Hall (minimum £1 spend on card payments).

Lunch

Lunch is served in the Dining Hall where the children have a selection of hot and cold balanced, nutritious and healthy meals prepared by our chefs, which includes a vegetarian/vegan option each day. All of our lunches are freshly prepared and cooked on the premises.

A copy of our weekly menu is displayed within school for our pupils and can also be found on our website. Every effort is made to accommodate the dietary needs of all children whether it be health, cultural or religious requirements. Simply talk to your child's Form Tutor if your child has special dietary needs.

Academic ethos

As an independent school, we have the scope to be able to support each student in following a unique journey towards GCSEs. Our framework of outstanding pastoral care enables students to make informed decisions and choices as they progress towards their examinations and achieving their goals. Our students are mature, confident, assured and achieve great success, often in 9-10 separate GCSE subjects.

The classroom experience at Teesside High School is very different to many other schools. Primarily, the classes are much smaller and this allows for much greater interaction between the teacher and students; a critical ingredient to ensure all pupils fulfil their potential.

All students are stretched and taught to pursue a growth mindset; the belief that their abilities can be developed through perseverance and hard work. Our students acquire a lifelong love of learning and a resilience that prepares them well for their future.

Our curriculum is designed to support this journey; significantly enhancing their skills in existing subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science, but also trying new subjects such as Food and Nutrition and Latin, for example.

Curriculum

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum includes core subjects English, Mathematics and Science as well as Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Food and Nutrition, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Music, Religious Studies, PE and PSHE.

During Year 9 our students choose their GCSE option subjects. As well as the subjects offered at Key Stage 3, students will have the opportunity to study Sport Studies and Business Studies as well as the option to study Separate Sciences or Double Award Science.

The Thinking Curriculum

We believe THS to be a forward thinking school that prepares children well for life. From Year 3 upwards, pupils are engaged in our innovative 'Thinking Curriculum'. We believe that education should go beyond the traditional boundaries of subjects knowledge and rote learning and the Thinking Curriculum aims to deliver this by developing pupils' thinking skills. We aim to empower our students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers and lifelong learners. The Thinking Curriculum will cultivate creativity, logical reasoning and analytical skills. Pupils will then apply these developed skills across the broader curriculum.

We aim to develop creativity by encouraging pupils to think outside of the box, explore diverse perspectives and express their ideas confidently within groups and individually. We want pupils to develop a strong sense of individuality and originality, essential for personal growth and future success. In addition, through a variety of carefully designed tasks, pupils will learn to analyse complex situations, identify patterns and evaluate evidence. These skills will enhance academic performance and equip pupils with the tools needed to navigate real-life challenges effectively.



Our Thinking Curriculum plays a pivotal role in enabling us to nurture well-rounded individuals who are adaptable, resilient and capable of thriving in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. In Senior School, all students engage with The Thinking Curriculum for an hour each fortnight in extended Form Time, led by their tutors. The programme is led by our Assistant Head for Teaching & Learning, Mr Meyerhoff.

Assessment

Your child will be regularly assessed in academic subjects, in both a formal and less formal basis, through, for example, in-class testing, questioning, lesson quizzes and end-of-unit tests. In this way, teachers always have up-to-date knowledge of your child's progress in their subject and can intervene quickly to support progress.

Formal examinations for Years 7-10 take place in the summer term. These formal examinations will contain questions from topics covered in class during that academic year and will test skills developed in each particular subject up to that point. You will receive your child's results from those examinations in their end of year report.

Chromebooks/Personal Devices

Each student is provided with a Chromebook to support their learning journey and to enrich the curriculum. A small maintenance charge is payable for this. This approach allows us to deliver our broad curriculum both in person and digitally should the need arise. As a school we use Google Apps for education which work seamlessly with Chromebooks. We filter and monitor all activity on school devices to ensure your child's safety online; we do this through Smoothwall. The details of how we do this are included in the Acceptable Use Policy which you will be provided with. We are conscious that online safety is a team effort and there will be an opportunity to explore this further at our New Parents' Evening in September. There are also tips on keeping your child safe online on our school website.

Pupils are not permitted to have their own devices in school. All mobile phones or other mobile devices must be handed in to tutors during registration, these are stored securely and can be collected from the Library at the end of the school day.

Tracking your child's progress

Your child's progress is carefully monitored at all stages along their journey through Teesside High School. In the first instance, your child's subject teachers will be checking your child's progress through the marking of work and in assessment results. Any concerns a teacher might have will be addressed to your child and to you as parents.

At each half term, progress data will be centralised in school for cross-curricular monitoring. You will receive a termly update on your child's progress in each subject, through two data reports and an end of year full report. However, if you should have concerns around your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact an individual teacher or Mr Clarke, Assistant Head responsible for Student Assessment & Progress.

Your child will have been assessed at the end of Year 6 and at the end of Year 9 (or upon their starting dates should they have joined us at any other point). These assessments test your child's vocabulary, mathematical and non-verbal skills. The results of these tests assign your child to an overall ability band and determine your child's GCSE target grades. Ability bands for Art, Drama, Music and PE will be determined by our staff in school.

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), your child will be assessed against their progress within their ability band. Your child's termly progress report will state whether they are on, above or below their target for each of their subjects.

Once your child has started their GCSE courses, their reports will state a predicted grade which their teacher believes is the most likely grade they will achieve in the final GCSE examination, and their progress against their target grade will be indicated.

Alongside your child's academic progress, you will receive a termly report on your child's behaviour in lessons, effort in class and ability to meet classwork and homework deadlines. Your child will be graded from 1 - 4 in each of these areas for each subject, 1 being exemplary in that area, and 4 being unacceptable. Full details of these criteria will be sent out with your child's progress reports.

Reporting to Parents

We believe the education of your child is a joint venture between parents and staff, and when we work together the results have a positive impact on the child's development and learning. A successful partnership is vital and you are actively encouraged to participate in school life.

You will find that our teachers are readily accessible to parents. There will always be a member of the staff willing to talk to you should you have any worries about your child's education or welfare. Should you wish to make an appointment to speak with a particular member of staff, this can be done through a letter, email or telephone call. Formal reporting occurs through parents' evenings and written reports. All year groups will have an in-person Parents' Evening during the year, whilst Year 7 and Years 10-13 will also have an extra Virtual Parents' Evening.

- Autumn Term - End of Term Progress Report; Year 7 and Year 10 Parents' Evening; Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening
- Spring Term - End of Term Progress Report; Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 Parents' Evening; Year 7 and Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening
- Summer Term - End of Term Examination Result and Progress Report (within full school reports).

We expect all of our parents and pupils to attend Parents' Evenings.

Homework

A rational approach to homework brings benefits to our pupils as well as maintaining the partnership between parents and teachers. Research indicates that there is a worthwhile benefit in setting homework; however, it is clear that a balance needs to be maintained in order that our pupils also have a life out of school. Homework issued will be recorded in Edulink along with a due date and then teachers will mark off this date once work is received and marked.

Able, Gifted and Talented

Teesside High School is committed to providing excellence in learning for all children of all abilities. We firmly believe that all students should be given the opportunity to exceed their perceived potential. We strive to identify pupils with the potential to achieve higher levels of

success and to also remove the barriers to achievement that some may encounter. We achieve this by having high academic expectations whilst providing an enriching curriculum that supports, challenges and motivates our able pupils.

We recognise individual pupils' specific gifts or talents in any area. This may include aspects of the academic curriculum, sport, music, drama or fine arts. If your child is recognised as Able, Gifted and Talented in a particular subject area, you will be notified, and tailored opportunities and experiences will be made available in order to further stretch their intellectual curiosity, develop their skills or provide progression support.

SEND

At Teesside High School our aim is for each child in our care to make excellent progress and achieve their potential. We will do all that is reasonable in the case of each child to detect and support appropriately with any learning difficulty which amounts to a special educational need or a disability. Mr Daniel List, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo), will work in conjunction with support staff, the Form Tutor, Assistant Head(s) and any external agencies to implement appropriate strategies and monitor their impact. The provision of learning support will be discussed with parents on a regular basis where needed. Our SEND team is based in our Learning Support Hub on the main teaching wing.

Speech and Drama

We hope to foster in our pupils the right attitude to the importance of distinct, well delivered speech expressed in confident well formulated language. Many children take advantage of lessons offered by our specialist Speech and Drama Teacher. These are given individually or in pairs or small groups for an hour per week. An extra charge is made for these. Additionally, the children can be entered for LAMDA examinations. More information for these can be obtained from our Head of Drama, Mrs Furness.



Music

The importance of music cannot be overemphasised. In addition to being great fun, music assists in a child's social and personal development. Children are encouraged to perform in assemblies, school concerts and the community as well as taking part in competitive festivals.

The Music department is a thriving part of Teesside High School. Many of our pupils are involved in co-curricular musical clubs such as Choir or Orchestra.

Individual Music Lessons

The school offers a wide variety of individual instrumental lessons. Specialist instrumental teachers visit the school weekly and 30 minute individual lessons are given during school hours.

If you would like your child to play a specific instrument, contact should be made to the Director of Music, Mrs Shevels.

Day Trips and Visits

At Teesside High School we recognise the importance of providing an educational experience that goes beyond the normal boundaries of the classroom.

We appreciate the need for families to be aware of residential opportunities in a timely manner. We therefore aim to provide a rolling list of residential trips and visits for our older pupils in Year 4 and above. We hope this will help you plan as a family and give a flavour of what we have to offer over the coming months and years.

You can find this list on our school website via:

<https://www.teessidehigh.co.uk/latest-news/trips-and-visits/>

Sport at THS

Our co-curricular sports programme is at the heart of our pupil community.

Sport at Teesside High is entirely inclusive. We encourage pupils of all abilities to be involved and committed to the programme. Our most able athletes excel and are stretched through School, District, County and National representation. However, being able to field B and C teams at a number of age groups and team sports, allows students to feel part of the success of the department, as well as enjoying the benefits of competitive sport.

Teesside High School enters local District Leagues for girls in netball, hockey, rounders and athletics, and county leagues in hockey. The equivalent competition is also available to boys to stretch their abilities in rugby, football, hockey, basketball, athletics, badminton and cricket.

Over 60% of pupils take a sporting activity as part of their enrichment. This training is necessary as part of our busy fixture schedule, which is available to view in advance both in school (fixtures screen outside of the Sports Hall) and on the school website via

<https://www.teessidehigh.co.uk/calendar/>

Fixtures are shared with pupils via Google calendar, and information shared with parents via email in advance.

We recommend that pupils bring their PE kit into school at the start of each week, to enable them to make the most of both timetabled lessons and the extensive enrichment activities on offer. Pupils can safely store their PE kits and other belongings on their cloakroom pegs (Years 7-9) or in their lockers (Years 10-11, small hire charge payable via termly invoice).

Co-curricular clubs and activities

We offer a wide and diverse range of co-curricular activities designed to enrich our curriculum, often over 40 clubs per term. Some examples of the activities we offer are detailed below, though these can vary greatly from term to term and year to year depending on the skills and requests of our pupils and our staff team:

- Illustration
- Debating
- Orchestra
- Tabletop Gaming
- Chess Club
- Choir
- British Sign Language
- Rubik's Cube club
- Film Making
- Astronomy
- Sports (as previous)
- Gusto Lingo
- Running Club
- Drama Club
- Board Games
- Recreational Tennis
- Scrapbooking
- Community Litter Picking
- Seniors to Seniors
- Senior School Production

...and much more!

Activities and clubs take place three times per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 3.00pm-4.00pm), and pupils rotate in their activities each term. Students will manage the sign up process for their enrichment activity themselves, and the details will appear on their school timetable (available to view via Edulink).

For students joining us mid-year, usually in Year 9, an activity tailored to catch up support in core subjects is also offered.

The House System

We have three Houses in School. Cleveland (yellow), Woodside (red) and Victoria (blue). Their names originate from the amalgamation of The Cleveland and Queen Victoria Girls Schools' which merged on this site in the former Woodside Hall, to then later become Teesside High School.

There is a strong tradition of competition between the Houses. All students are allocated to a House as they arrive and all students are encouraged to join in with all competitions. These competitions range from sports to choir, photography to readathons, sports day to house merits, drama to baking; really something for everyone. All competitions culminate in the awarding of Champion House at our annual Celebration of Achievements in July. All those fully committed to their Houses receive House Colours from their Heads of House in the summer term, an enamel house coloured star badge to wear on their blazer with pride.

Our Heads of House are: Cleveland, Mr Williamson; Victoria, Mr Thomas; Woodside, Mrs Reid. Our reigning House Champions 2022-23 are Cleveland House.

School Council

All students are invited to be a part of our School Council. At the start of the year we form a Council which has between 3-6 representatives per year group. These representatives bring forward the voice, opinions, ideas and thoughts of their peers. This body is led by our Head Boy and Girl team and overseen by Miss Stephens. They meet half termly to discuss and drive ideas for change for our school. The Council has a Chair(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Press Officer and various working committees such as our Food & Catering Committee and our Facilities Committee. All minutes of the meetings are shared with Form Tutors for dissemination to their tutor groups and with the Senior Leadership Team. Some of the things the Council has worked on in recent years are: reducing single use plastics in our catering provision, exploring the national issue of sexual harassment in schools and putting measures in place to ensure our pupil body feels safe, supported and has a reporting mechanism which they will use. Also, exploring the possibilities of floodlights on our astro turf and improvements to the social spaces in school through fundraising projects.



Behaviour and expectations

We have high expectations for our pupils. We believe that good manners alongside a respect for adults and for one another are vital elements in the life of a school as well as our place in society. We believe in positive behaviour management and have clear mechanisms in place to recognise and reward positive behaviour (merits/commendations) and discourage negative behaviour (demerits/detentions)

Students will see, displayed in all classrooms and working spaces our THS Agreement (below), which are the fundamental expectations of all of our students:

The THS agreement

Our expectations are that you behave **safely** and **responsibly**, treating fellow pupils and staff with **good manners and respect**. We will follow this agreement, first time, every time.

T - Time Management

- Arrive to school and lessons on time and ready to learn
- Hand in homework on time; meet deadlines

H - High expectations

- Line up at the classroom on time, stand behind chairs until asked to sit
- Follow instructions the first time of asking
- Do not leave your chair unless given permission to do so
- Work should be completed to the highest standard
- Listen to instructions carefully and try the work first before asking for help
- Be courteous, hold doors open and keep to the left in corridors
- Queue in an orderly manner for lunch
- Be respectful of others and their property
- We will not put our hands on another student or say or do anything to them so as to cause harm, upset or distress, either in person or online
- Eat only in the Dining Hall or allocated spaces, chewing gum is not allowed

S - Smart and ready to learn

- Appearance should be smart and business like
- Give everything your everything
- Equipment; Pen, Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Calculator, Chromebook, Books and Files, any other equipment needed for the lesson.

Uniform

Uniform can be purchased online through our supplier Schoolblazer (www.schoolblazer.co.uk).
All items are compulsory unless marked with asterix (*)

Senior School Uniform Years 7-11 Inclusive	
Girls: School crested blazer Tartan skirt/trousers White revere collar blouse (long or short sleeved) Navy blue v neck jumper with bottle green trim Navy blue opaque tights Navy blue hair accessories	Boys: School crested blazer Long charcoal grey trousers White shirt (long or short sleeved) Navy blue v neck jumper with bottle green trim Grey socks Tie
Unisex: Dark coloured school bag White lab coat Scientific calculator (Casio FX-83GTX) Chromebook (provided for Years 7-10) Navy cool bag with school logo (for Food and Nutrition) School apron (for Food and Nutrition - purchased via ParentPay, details will follow)	
Senior PE Kit	
<i>*Items available from the Schoolblazer website. Note: All kit must be named.</i>	
Compulsory: White Crested PE Polo* Navy and Emerald Skort* Emerald Games Socks* White Trainer Socks Navy Crested Midlayer* Navy Crested Training Pant* Trainers Football boots Mouthguard Shin pads Hockey stick Optional: Navy/Emerald Crested Tracksuit Top* Navy and Emerald Crested Games Bag* Navy Crested Base Layer* or own navy/black base layer Black Base Layer Leggings* or own black base layer leggings/skins Athletics spikes Astro-turf trainers	Compulsory: Navy/Emerald Crested Reversible Rugby Top* White Crested PE Polo* Navy Crested Rugby Shorts* Emerald Games Socks* White Trainer Socks Navy Crested Midlayer* Navy Crested Training Pant* Trainers Rugby/football boots Mouthguard Shin pads Hockey stick Optional: Navy/Emerald Crested Tracksuit Top* Navy and Emerald Crested Games Bag* Navy Crested Base Layer* or own navy/black base layer Black Base Layer Leggings* or own black base layer leggings/skins Athletics spikes Astro-turf trainers

Uniform Notes - EYFS to Year 11 Inclusive

- Trainers and boots are not acceptable as everyday footwear.
- School skirts must always be on the knee.
- Shoes must always be black and with a low, sensible heel.
- Blazers to be worn at all times to and from school.
- Coats to be worn over blazers in bad weather. These can be bought from our uniform supplier up to Year 6. Years 7-11 may wear a smart navy or black coat of their choice. No gilets, hoodies or casual coats.
- In winter, gloves, hats and scarves must be navy blue. Hair accessories must be navy blue.
- Hair should be tidy and of natural colour. If longer than collar length, it should be tied back off the face; extreme haircuts and hair colours are not permitted. For boys, minimum length is a no. 2 cut, lines or fades are not permitted.
- The only jewellery permitted is a wrist watch. No piercings are permitted. We request that any piercings are carried out at the beginning of the summer break to allow time to heal and be removed for term time.

Second hand uniform

We offer a second hand uniform service, selling immaculate and nearly new uniform items to parents across the school. Donations can be left at Reception, and purchase enquiries made to secondhanduniform@teessidehigh.co.uk

Transition to the Sixth Form

Towards the end of Year 10, students suddenly find themselves at the top of the school, as exam classes are absent on study leave. At this point we gently introduce to students the future we offer; they get to explore the Sixth Form block and hear about routes through further to higher education, apprenticeships and employment. Right at the start of Year 11, students have an opportunity to discuss their options one-to-one with senior members of staff, who are able to advise them about choosing post-16 subjects and eventual career aspirations. These conversations continue throughout the term, with form tutors offering enough guidance to allow students both to aim high and to make informed, realistic and appropriate choices.

Absence for holidays

Our holiday allocation is rather generous and, as such, we do discourage parents from arranging holidays when the school is in action. Please note that holidays taken during the school term will be at the discretion of the Head and should be requested by letter in advance; holidays taken in term time, particularly in Years 10-13 or if attendance is low may be unauthorised.

Health and medical matters

We are a nut free school.

Staff are qualified in First Aid and able to deal with most of the minor injuries that occur in school. However, sometimes we do have more serious accidents. It is vital that we are kept informed of where you can be contacted in an emergency, especially if you go out to work during the day. Please inform the school immediately of any changes that affect this information.

One day you may be needed urgently. Other up-to-date contact names and telephone numbers are also important.

Attendance is very important and directly impacts on academic attainment. Whilst we do not expect you to bring your child to school if he/she is feeling very unwell, if you believe they might be able to work through the day with over the counter medication such as paracetamol or an antihistamine, please do have a conversation with our office team and or tutor/pastoral support officer and they will make arrangements for the relevant medication consent and safe administration. If there is any doubt in your mind about your child's health, it is advisable to keep them at home and visit your doctor.

Children suffering from sickness and/or diarrhoea should not attend school for 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased.

If your child is unwell during the school day, they must report to their tutor or pastoral support and they will assess them and arrange a call home for collection. They must not use their personal or school device to contact you directly as this can lead to panic and worry. All contact must come from school.

Administration of Medicine

Pupils are not permitted to carry any medication for their own safety and that of others. All medications must be handed to Reception. Parents must fill in and sign a consent form before the school administers any form of medication. Copies of these forms are available on Edulink. Medication brought into school must be clearly labelled and handed in to the School Office each day. Should a child become ill during the school day every effort will be made to contact parents.

Absence due to illness

If your child is unwell we request that you notify us via Edulink to inform us, stating the reason for this absence. This helps to ensure that our registers are accurate.

Policies and procedures

Please feel free to take a look at our school policies and procedures. These are accessible to parents online through our website or a printed version is held in the School Office.



Complaints procedure

All concerns or complaints are taken seriously and treated with care and sensitivity at Teesside High School. We welcome your support and encourage an open dialogue on all matters concerning your child. If there is anything you wish to discuss, your child's Form Tutor is normally available before or after school. Parents are able to contact staff directly via email with any specific queries. If you prefer to see the Head, an appointment can be made by contacting Mrs Ripley, Head's PA, via headspa@teessidehigh.co.uk

Frequently asked questions

Where should my child report to on their first day?

All new Year 7 pupils and those new to other year groups should report to the Senior Student Entrance on their first day of school in September. Here, they will be greeted by a member of staff and shown to their form room.

If your son or daughter is joining us mid-year, please report to Reception on their first day, where they will be greeted by a member of the admissions team.

What should they bring?

On the first day of school, your child should bring their pencil case, PE kit, a bottle of water and a healthy snack (no nuts, please) or spare change to purchase a snack from the Dining Hall.

When will they be assigned their Chromebook?

Chromebooks are handed to pupils during their first tutor session, along with IT login details.

Do we need to buy everything Schoolblazer offers us?

In short, no. Schoolblazer makes life easy for busy parents as it acts as a one-stop shop, but our uniform list is comprehensive in advising what is optional, and what is compulsory. Some items can be purchased from the high street, such as boys' trousers, for example.

An item of uniform has not yet arrived, is this a problem?

We appreciate there can be delays to sizing and stock becoming available so please do not worry if your child is missing one or two items of uniform on their first day. Simply email the admissions team who will advise the relevant members of staff.

If you have any queries that have not been covered within this handbook, please contact us via info@teessidehigh.co.uk