



The James Hornsby School

Together we excel

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into the new academic year, I have been reflecting these past few weeks and what makes a successful school.

Often, we naturally focus on the big moments: examination results, awards, performances, sporting successes and special events. These are important occasions and ones that we rightly celebrate. However, the real foundations of a successful school are built much more quietly, through the small choices that our students make every single day.

It is arriving on time and ready to learn. It is having the right equipment. It is wearing our uniform with pride. It is choosing to listen when someone else is speaking, completing a piece of work to the very best of your ability, showing kindness when nobody is watching, or deciding to persevere when something feels difficult.

Individually, these things can seem quite small. Collectively, they make an enormous difference.

I am delighted to say that the overwhelming majority of our students have made a very positive start to the year. Around school, there is a real sense of purpose. Students are approaching their learning with increasing maturity, and I have been particularly pleased to see so many young people demonstrating the drive and determination to make this year count.

Of course, no school year begins perfectly. A small number of students are still finding their feet and have made some mistakes around uniform, equipment or their attitude to learning. That is part of growing up. Our job is not simply to point out when young people get something wrong, but to help them understand why it matters, learn from it and make a better choice next time. We will continue to have high expectations because we know what our students are capable of achieving.

Our recent Open Evening was a huge success and provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and, most importantly, our students. We have launched our next Staff Masked Singer, preparations are underway for our upcoming Sports Awards Evening, and our Year 11 students have begun their Period 6 interventions with real commitment and purpose following their Introduction to Year 11 meeting.

Students have also been enjoying opportunities beyond their normal lessons, including our Harry Potter trip, a Royal Navy catering event for Year 10, a Cambridge University workshop for Key Stage 3 and a primary athletics event supported by our fantastic student sports leaders.



ZENITH
MULTI ACADEMY
TRUST

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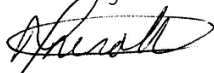
Keep turning up ready to learn. Keep asking questions. Keep challenging yourself. Keep taking opportunities and keep going, if you make a mistake, learn from it and move forward. Above all, never underestimate how much progress can be made when small positive choices are repeated every day.

If the first few weeks are anything to go by, we have much to look forward to this year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards

Tammy Nicholls



Headteacher

Calendar dates:

Tuesday 22nd September – Year 8 Careers Assembly

Thursday 24th September – Royal Opera House Trip for Performing Arts Year 10 and Sports Awards Evening

Monday 28th September – Year 7 Baseline Learning Assessments and Student Council Week

Wednesday 30th September – Year 7 & 8 Road Safety Event

Thursday 1st October – SLT Drop in for Parents and Carers

Monday 5th October – Year 11 PPEs (Round 1)

Monday 12th October – Attendance Focus Week

Thursday 15th October – Primary Maths Event and Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

Tuesday 20th October – Year 7 Disco and Year 8 Trip to Boulogne

Wednesday 21st October – Year 10 Tate Modern Trip, Year 10 Geography Field Trip, Year 9 STEM Trip and Enrichment Day. Break up for half term at normal 3pm time.



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