

Honley High School – About Us

At Honley High School we have a long and proud tradition of academic excellence, a strength on which we are continually trying to build. In 2014 the achievement of our students gained us recognition as being the highest performing non-selective school in Kirklees, a statement supported again with our student outcomes in 2015. Although the school is quite large (we have over 1200 students) we like to feel that we get to know all our students, as individuals, and are able to support them through what we all acknowledge, is a crucial time in their lives.



Central to everything we are working to achieve is the school vision. We are striving to create an exceptional school where all members of the school community:

- Are proud of the school, respectful of each other, socially responsible, and believe in and promote our values;
- Work within an atmosphere of mutual support, respect and collaboration;
- Are committed to individual and collective success and place no ceiling on aspiration;
- Celebrate effort as well as achievement, take risks and learn from mistakes, recognising the intrinsic value of learning;
- Place the needs of the child at the centre of learning, nurture their creativity in overcoming the challenges of today and develop their resilience to address the uncertainties of tomorrow.

The exceptional school that we will create will be founded upon the following values and beliefs:

- We believe in fairness, equity and inclusion: we value every child for who they are and show compassion and understanding in our dealings with one another;
- We strive for excellence in everything we do. We have high aspirations for everyone and believe that children and adults thrive in a climate of praise, celebration and recognition. We always measure ourselves against the highest standards;
- We believe we must put the interests of our children above all other considerations.

We are proud to serve our community and in September 2014 changed status to become a Cooperative Learning Trust. The Cooperative values of equity, openness, self-help and social responsibility are well aligned with our aims as a school and the development of forums will enable us to better engage with all of our stakeholders. We have been joined on our educational journey by the Lawrence Batley Theatre, Locala, One-17 Design, Cummins Turbo Technologies, Huddersfield New College, Camira Fabrics, fairandfunky and Team Activ as trust partners to enhance the opportunities that we can offer our students in future.

In addition to the work we are involved with as part of the Learning Trust we also have established links with the Royal Shakespeare Company and for a number of years have run an annual Shakespeare Festival involving children from secondary, primary and infant schools across the authority. We provide amazing opportunities for children with an interest in the arts and we have been assessed and are anticipating accreditation from the Arts Council with Arts Mark Gold in recognition for the provision we have put in place. We also have a reputation for developing young sportsmen and women and have had significant national success in many fields, with teams winning championships regionally and nationally and individual students progressing to represent their country internationally in gymnastics, football and racket sports.

At Honley High School, whilst recognising the importance of academic achievement we understand our role in terms of broadening the horizons of the children in our care and developing the skills and attributes in making them successful citizens of the future. In 2015 we led both an international arts exchange project with China and an expedition to Tanzania, which our students self-funded, in order to support a school building program. The ambition and scope of Honley High and our students stretches significantly beyond our immediate locality.

Our School Environment

The school occupies a beautiful site looking up the Holme Valley, about four miles south of Huddersfield. To the main building, completed in 1932, have been added our ICT base and major extensions which include a Sports Hall and music and drama suites. We benefit from extremely good facilities for sport which also includes a gym, tennis courts, a fitness suite and a redgra all-purpose pitch. In 2005 we were designated a Science and Mathematics Specialist College which attracted considerable extra revenue and capital funding. As a consequence, we were able to greatly enhance the resources and opportunities offered to students across the curriculum.

Our Students

We have 1230 students aged 11 to 16 at Honley High School. Approximately two thirds of the 263 11 year olds who joined us, came from Brockholes, Helme, Honley and Meltham. We continue to welcome students from further afield. Our intake for 2015 incorporated children from 30 different primary schools. We are a fully comprehensive community school and receive valued support from Kirklees Local Authority. Our students are lively, intelligent and well-disciplined and we are proud of their many and varied achievements. We make no apologies for our expectations being high and our students typically rise to this challenge. Admissions for Year 7 indicate that we will again be over-subscribed with a significant waiting list to join our school in September 2016.

School Examination Performance 2015

We have an established track record of supporting our students in achieving academically. We have consistently exceeded national averages for headline measures for attainment, maintaining that over 70% of students (73% in 2015) achieve 5A*-C including English and Mathematics. More importantly our students also make better progress given their starting points compared to other schools with 78% making expected progress in English and 80% making expected progress in Mathematics in 2014 (compared to 69% and 66% nationally) and similarly in terms of proportions of students exceeding expected progress.

These facts and figures don't however tell the full story. The school prides itself on the results achieved by all students, irrespective of background. The proportion of students with educational needs, or from vulnerable backgrounds, who achieved 5A*-C including English & Mathematics has also remained significantly above the national average.

The most recent performance tables for Honley High School can be found via the following link:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/school.pl?urn=107763>

Ofsted Reports

Our most recent full inspection was in October 2015. Whilst we were satisfied with the grading of Good we are now focussing upon moving the school forward to become truly Outstanding. At Honley High we collectively believe that our students, our families and our community deserve no less.

Please follow this link to see the inspection report and previous reports: <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/107763>

Our Staff

Our teachers are very well qualified and skilled practitioners. They are all experts in their own area and possess the means to enthuse and motivate young people. All subjects are taught by specialists and we are fully staffed. With 87 teachers and a full complement of associate staff, we are well placed to meet the needs of all of our students.

Our Governors

Honley High has a governing body of 12. With 4 parent governors elected to represent parents on the governing body. There are also 3 community governors, 2 Trust governors, 2 staff governors and 1 local authority governor. Many of our 12 governors have had their children educated at Honley High School; this obviously informs the way in which the governing body works. The full governing body meets each term, though much of the work is undertaken by committees.

Kirklees secondary provision for students on the autistic spectrum

Set up in September 2002, the Resourced Provision provides support for students with autistic spectrum disorder. Students are taught with their mainstream peers and are fully included in all aspects of school life. Some students are supported across the timetable. For others, small group sessions are also provided, focusing specifically on communication, social interaction and life skills. As a school we are committed to ensuring that all students receive an inclusive education and encourage all students to develop skills that will prepare them for life.

The Local Area

Honley is a large village in West Yorkshire, England, near to Holmfirth and Huddersfield situated on the banks of the River Holme in the Holme Valley. There are three schools in the village; Honley Infant and Nursery School for ages 3–7, Honley Junior School for ages 7–11, and Honley High School for ages 11–16. The parish church St Mary's, is a mostly Victorian church constructed in 1873 on the remains of an earlier church, known as 'Old Peg' built in 1759.

Honley railway station opened on 1 July 1850, on the Penistone Line. It connects the village to Huddersfield and Sheffield with an hourly service. There are regular bus services to Huddersfield, Holmfirth and Meltham. Most bus services are operated by the national First Group and K-Line who are based in the village.

The annual Honley Agricultural Show takes place on the second Saturday of June. The Honley Agricultural Show used farmland between Honley and Meltham and more recently farmland in Farnley Tyas. This is an event where animal lovers can bring their dogs, horses, cattle, sheep and even mice to be judged "best in show". Craft and local produce stalls are a large part of the show.

Honley has a thriving musical tradition with both Ladies and Male Voice Choirs and The Yorkshire Traction Honley Band who are celebrating 150 years of tradition.

The village itself retains its traditional feel whilst at the same time offering a wide variety of shops, restaurants and facilities.