

10 October 2025 **Primary Headteacher Update**



Penshurst Primary School

Winthorpe Road, First Lane Hessle, East Riding of Yorkshire HU13 9EX

Hessle High School & Sixth Form College

Tranby House, Heads Lane Hessle, East Riding of Yorkshire HU13 0JQ

Tel: 01482 648604 Email: office@hessleacademy.com Website: www.thehessleacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a real pleasure getting to know the school since joining in September and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks. I've been made to feel incredibly welcome by staff, pupils, and families alike — thank you.

I have already seen so many strengths in the school: our pupils are enthusiastic, polite and proud of their learning; staff are dedicated and caring; and the school community clearly values the importance of education and strong relationships. It's been a privilege to observe the many positive aspects of daily school life.

As with any new start, I've also taken time to reflect on areas where we could make improvements to help the school grow even stronger. I'll be sharing more about this over the coming weeks, and I look forward to working in partnership with you as these ideas develop.

One of the first areas I'd like to revisit is our Pupil of the Week assembly. These assemblies are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the efforts and achievements of our pupils, and I want to make them even more special and meaningful for the children. To do this, we'll be taking a short pause from inviting parents into these assemblies while we review the format. I want to ensure they are truly celebratory in nature and that pupils feel recognised in the best possible way. I'll keep you informed once we have a clearer plan moving forward.

Linked to this, I'm also reviewing our rewards system across school. We're exploring new awards and recognition opportunities, and I'll share more details about these soon.

I'm very much looking forward to meeting many of you in person during next week's Progress Evenings. I will be available on both nights, so please do come and say hello. We will also be asking parents and carers to complete a short survey during the evenings, as I am keen to hear your thoughts — particularly around communication. I understand that a weekly communication from the previous Head was maintained, and I'd like to know whether this is something you found helpful / would like to see continued or adapted in some way.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome. I'm excited about the journey ahead and the opportunity to work together in support of your children.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Shiels Headteacher