



## 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. Although the school is quite large (we have over 1280 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

**HONLEY HIGH SCHOOL** NITIMUR IN EXCELSIS - STRIVE FOR THE HIGHEST

- 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 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 value working in partnership with others and in September 2019 we joined with four other schools in Kirklees and Calderdale to form the Together Learning Trust. This multi-academy trust, which replaces our previous Co-operative Trust status, has been founded on the principles of Integrity, Creativity and Excellence. Our expectation is that by working together as a family of schools we will be able to provide even greater opportunities for our learners and greater access to professional development for our staff. We are pleased that many of our previous Co-operative Trust partners agreed to transfer across to support this new venture and are continuing to work with us to develop our children into well-rounded and socially responsible young adults.

In addition to the work we are involved with as part of the Trust, we provide amazing opportunities for children with an interest in the arts and we have been assessed and are, again, anticipating accreditation with the Arts Council '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 with individual students progressing to represent their country internationally in gymnastics, football, triathlon, rugby league and racket sports.

We are delighted to hold The Quality in Careers Standard which recognises the breadth and inclusivity of our Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) and we are active members of the Kirklees Careers Hub and CEIAG network.

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 2019 a group of our students self-funded an expedition to Costa Rica to support the conservation of Sea Turtles and in 2021 we are planning a further expedition to Vietnam to provide support to local community projects there. 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, we have added our ICT base and major extensions include a Sports Hall and music and drama suites. We benefit from extremely good facilities for sport which also include a gym, tennis courts, a fitness suite and a redgra all-purpose pitch. We have a well-resourced state of the art school library with research materials and literature that encompass a wide choice of genres to cater for all tastes. The school library underwent recent extensive refurbishment, converting a traditional space into a learning environment fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

### **Our Students**

At Honley High School we have 1285 students aged 11 to 16. Over half of the 255 11 year olds who joined us this year came from Brockholes, Helme, Honley and Meltham, but we continue to welcome students from further afield and our intake for 2019 incorporated children from 30 different primary schools.

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. 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 2020.

## **School Examination Performance**

We have an established track record of supporting our students in achieving academically. Historically GCSE examination results at Honley have been well above both the local and national average. Summer 2019 GCSE results were disappointing and not in line with the high expectations that we set ourselves. Current internal tracking data shows that we anticipate the attainment of those students currently in school to be at or above the levels we have traditionally achieved at Honley.

## **Ofsted Reports**

Our most recent full inspection was in October 2015. 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>

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.

## **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 90 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 maintains a governing body of 10, including the Headteacher. The governing body provides representation from parents, the community and staff. Governors are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality of education for all students. They promote effective teaching and learning through the review and approval of key policies and procedures, and ensure the financial performance of the school by making sure that money is well spent. All of our governors are fully invested in Honley High, many of them having been educated or having their children educated at the school. The governing body meets at least once every half term.

## **Kirklees secondary specialist provision for students with complex communication and interaction needs, including those with autistic spectrum condition (ASC)**

Set up in September 2002, the Specialist Provision provides support for students with complex communication and interaction needs including those on the autistic spectrum condition. 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 two schools in the village. Honley Nursery, Infant and Junior School for children aged 3 to 11 years and Honley High School for ages 11–16 years. The Parish church is St Mary's a mostly Victorian church, constructed in 1873 on the remains of an earlier church, known as 'Old Peg' built in 1759.

Honley train station which opened on 1 July 1850, on the Penistone Line is just across the road from school and connects the village to Huddersfield and Sheffield with an hourly service. There are regular bus services to Huddersfield, Holmfirth and Meltham.

The Honley Agricultural Show takes place on the second Saturday of June each year. Previously using farmland between Honley and Meltham this popular agricultural event is now held on farmland in Farnley Tyas. The Honley Show is an event where animal lovers can bring their dogs, horses, cattle, sheep and even mice to be judged "best in show". There is also a handicrafts section where the local community has the opportunity to enter their handiworks in a wide range of competitions including baking, vegetables, arts, photography and textiles work. Our students regularly enter their art, design and technology work to compete against other local schools.

Honley has a thriving musical tradition with both Ladies and Male Voice Choirs.