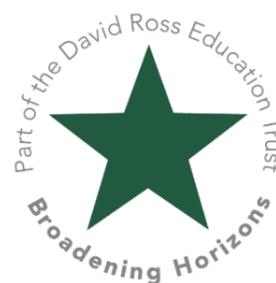


# Excellence for all

16 November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers



## RE OUR GENDER GAP

This summer we yet again achieved some excellent examination results at Humberston Academy. We are incredibly proud of the outcomes our students achieve and their personal development towards adulthood which allows them to be moral citizens within our local community.

However, as we strive for 'excellence for all' there is a gender gap that has become apparent, where our female students do significantly better than our male students. We are fortunate that all our students make progress that is better than the national average but analysis demonstrates that our male students could do better.

Within the Academy we have looked extensively at external research in this matter and have some clear guidance for you as a parent/carer in order to support your child and his/her education.

This letter is not intended to be condescending nor patronising but we do recognise that as parents and carers you play a huge role in ensuring your child is achieving his/her academic potential. We hope the guidance will not frustrate you as we are merely trying to ensure the best academic outcomes for your child.

Whilst the guidance is focused on our male students, we fully recognise that in some cases our female students may also benefit from this advice and therefore we have made the decision to send to all our parents/carers.

Below are eight key areas that can positively support learning from the research undertaken:

- Girls dedicate more time than boys to homework. Taking time to complete homework allows knowledge and skills to be further developed. In addition to this, if the parent/carer supports the homework in a coaching capacity it allows students to take responsibility and complete it to a high standard. Our 'Show My Homework' software will allow parents and carers to be aware of assignments and deadlines in order to support this process.
- Girls read more than boys. Reading proficiency is the foundation that any learning is built upon. Encouraging your child to read to him/herself and out loud to you will improve communication, oracy and the ability to understand complex text which stimulates the brain and allows deeper and prolonged engagement.
- Boys spend longer in the virtual world than girls. Cutting down on 'gaming' and surfing the internet allows the brain to be stimulated through other worthwhile activities such as discussions, intellectual challenge and the real world.



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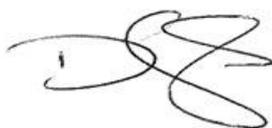
- A sensible diet allows all students to focus for longer periods of time and sustain a deeper level of learning. Monitoring what is consumed can be advantageous to mental development and keeping hydrated will allow a better level of concentration.
- Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities. Research has shown particularly with boys that involvement in a club at school improves focus, engagement and creates positive relationships with staff and students which is reflected in achieving higher grades. (Extra-Curriculum programme attached)
- Asking how your child's school day has been and demanding more than a one word response demonstrates an interest in their education. It may spark a discussion or support a piece of homework. Research suggests that more involvement and interest in your child's school day will raise the likelihood for academic success.
- Attendance to school really does make a difference. Take time to explain the benefits of attending school on a regular basis. Listen to any unwillingness but offer a more positive perception or a focus on a career pathway. This will allow your child to be positive about school and recognise the advantages.
- Ensure you build a relationship with the staff that work closely with your child; sharing notes in your child's planner and sending emails demonstrates to your child that we are working in partnership for their education.

By following this guidance, you pro-actively tell your child that education matters; this will have a significant impact on engagement in school.

We fully recognise that many of our parents/carers already use the strategies shared within this letter but even if one area can be developed – we will be creating a better education for Humberston Academy students.

As always, thank you for your commitment and partnership with Humberston Academy and your child's education.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Shoubridge  
Acting Principal



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