

18 June 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

Keeping children and young people safe in school is the most important responsibility that we hold as adults working in schools. Parents do care about exam results but mostly you want to know that your child is safe and that they will be taken care of during the day. You want to believe that your child is happy and is enjoying school, that they are making friends, sometimes new ones, and gaining an understanding of the differences between themselves and others and learning to live amongst, and celebrate those differences. Importantly, you want to know that if something happens to your child, we will know about it and take care of them, and keep you informed along the way. You also want to know that we will find the talent in your child and find a way to nurture it. These, and much more besides, are the expectations that we place on ourselves every day.

In order to do that, we constantly review the way that we work and, being part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) offers us even more ways to review that work than if we were just a stand-alone Academy. This week, we welcomed some fellow leaders from our Trust to our school to undertake a Safeguarding Review. Over the course of the day, they spoke to students and staff to ask about how we keep our learners safe; they observed our procedures at first-hand, reviewed documentation and discussed our systems with leaders. They watched student movement around the site in the morning, at break, at lunch, at the end of the day and between lessons, and they spoke to visitors, parents and contractors. The report that they have provided us with, I am pleased to say, found no concerns and indeed offers many positives and, in a number of areas, highlights some exceptional practice. As it should, it also suggests some ways that we can develop even further; these suggestions are based on the evidence that the team have found from studying other schools in our Trust. Likewise, the practice seen at Holderness will also now be shared with other schools, to the benefit of all of our learners. This kind of collaboration across Academies is a really important benefit of the MAT structure and we are seeing gains from this on a regular basis.

As part of our ongoing safeguarding practice, we will be focusing on our emergency procedures during tutor time next week. This will include our lockdown/invacuation procedures in the highly unlikely event of e.g. a chemical leak at BP, Saltend or an intruder on site. The purpose of this is not to be alarmist or cause undue fear or anxiety, but to raise awareness amongst all staff and learners of the need to be proactive, prepared and to understand their roles and responsibilities should a situation arise.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator



On the horizon, we are really looking forward to our Sports Week and our World of Work Week as we continue to raise the aspirations of our young people. Please look out for further information next week.

Now, off to watch a particularly important football match where I am feeling a little nervous about a promise I made to students about donning my kilt on Monday should Scotland win! I appreciate you will be reading this thinking that I have no need to feel nervous!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Wilson', written in black ink.

Mr S Wilson
Headteacher