

27 May 2022



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer

Safeguarding Audit

During my first week here at Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College we hosted an external safeguarding audit by The Safeguarding Alliance. Lizann Lowson, CEO, wanted to share some feedback with you regarding safeguarding:

With safeguarding being paramount in everything we do, we carry out internal audits across all our schools. In 2021/22 we extended this further by commissioning an external organisation to conduct safeguarding audits. The Safeguarding Alliance has recently conducted an audit at Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College and we are pleased with the findings. Although the report has not been finalised, strengths include *'a strong culture of safeguarding'* exists across the Academy; stakeholders including learners and staff expressed how *'individuals feel safe at the school'*; *'leadership of safeguarding is a strength'* and *'school attendance is very good with robust processes in place to challenge low attendance'*.

Most importantly, the audit endorsed our view that the Academy *'has a very good range of interventions (internal and external) offered to support the welfare of pupils'*.

Whilst we have key roles in place to lead safeguarding, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure our Academy environment and community is safe, so thank you to you as parents/carers and to all our learners and staff, as it's only by working in partnership that we can truly ensure safeguarding remains effective.

Exams

As the Year 11 exams continue I would like to express how impressed I have been with the way the students have conducted themselves during the examination series. Their behaviour, both before and after the examinations, has been impeccable. Obviously, students will have their ups and downs during the exam series but the students are showing great resilience.

Summer Ball

This week invites have been sent out for the Year 11 Summer Ball and I am pleased that students get to celebrate their time at the Academy together. Previous year groups have not had that rite of passage, marking one period of life closing and another period opening.

Year 6 Transition

During this half term we have started our Academy in Action visits for Year 6 students as part of our transition process. Below is a quote from a parent/carers after visiting the School:

*"I just wanted to extend our thanks again to yourself and your colleague for showing us around (**** and myself and my husband!) loved the school and he would love to start with you in September. I will call and speak to the SEND team tomorrow and let them know our change of school for September and ask them to hold an interim review if that's needed to name Holderness Academy. Thank you again for making us feel so welcome. We are so excited to look forward to such a lovely provision for **** high school years".*

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

After half term we are starting these visits again inviting Parents/Carers from all year groups to sign up to a tour of the school with a member of staff, to get a feel for the school and see what the Academy is like on a day to day basis. To register your interest please email office@holderness.academy with the subject 'Academy in Action'.

Social Media

It is inevitable, given the nature of schools and what we do, that there will be occasions where parents/carers disagree, have concerns or in some cases are angry about outcomes. When such situations occur we welcome contact at Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College so we can resolve these concerns swiftly and in the correct context. Over the last half-term, we (and other schools) have seen an increase in the use of social media as a platform for defamatory comments against the school and at times, members of staff. This is both unhelpful and inappropriate. It also raises very serious safeguarding concerns. It is important that we are not making assumptions about a situation when all the facts are not available.

We want all parents and carers to work in partnership with school by the right means of communication. We have clear guidelines and expectations on how parents/carers should use social media when they communicate about our school. Please could I ask that parents and carers refrain from causing undue stress and panic amongst students and other parents/carers via social media outlets. If you would like to discuss any concerns please contact the school office where a member of staff will be able to speak to you, when available.

Finally, our school continues to improve all the time and I hope you share our pride in this year's achievements. We will continue to improve by working together, consistently demanding high expectations of all, sticking to our values and sense of purpose, and remembering that everything we do is only worth doing if it has a positive impact on our students. This will help us become a community of successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. While there is much to do these are exciting times.

I wish you a very happy and enjoyable half term break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Cannon', written in a cursive style.

Mr G Cannon
Interim Headteacher