

29 April 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for continuing to do everything you are doing to engage students in our remote learning package. Our teaching staff continue the dialogue with them, and are regularly updating work primarily via Google Drive, Seneca and MathsWatch.

Communication is - of course - a two-way street and we really appreciate your feedback. When they are in school, young people (as you might guess) are never slow in letting us know if a lesson or teaching style is not fully meeting their learning needs. The outcome of the student survey over the Easter break was largely positive and we have made some changes as a result of that. We really do welcome any comments and opinions, especially if it is constructively critical. I will be setting up a parent survey later in the week to capture this more fully but please do get in touch.

It is now five and half weeks since we 'closed', albeit that two of those weeks would have been the Easter break, and the length of time does not get any easier. In that period of time, we have tried to update you as much as possible and we have been in regular contact with a large proportion of our young people. Tutors have also enjoyed being in contact with their tutor group and this has been received very well by students. We are monitoring this, and we are making calls to those who have not responded. Please could I ask that your child continues to check their school email account on a regular basis.

In addition to this, we have set up a welfare@holderness.academy address for you to contact us should you require further support. There is also a fantastic service in the Nurse ChatHealth that can help young people with any anxieties, worries or any general issues. The ChatHealth number is 07507332891 and can be contacted Mon-Fri 9-5pm.

The following parts of my letter to you today is aimed at the parents of students in Year 11 as well as those of you who are eligible for Free School Meals.

As you know, the GCSE examinations this summer have been cancelled and our teachers will be submitting Centre Assessment Grades, along with a ranked position in relation to other students within that grade, to the examination boards. This will allow them to calculate the final grade. For more information on this please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020/letter-to-students-summer-2020-grading>

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THE CONSORTIUM
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In line with Ofqual's guidance our teachers are not asking Year 11 students to complete or submit work. This advice has largely been provided because the examination boards and Ofqual are conscious that requests to carry on completing work at home would impact the integrity of the courses and it could disadvantage students that either; do not have an environment conducive for positive learning and/or potentially not be able to access the work at all.

With this in mind though it is important to recognise that the content of the GCSE courses for almost all subjects has been completed – especially for those that were mainly examination-based courses. This is the case due to the fact that GCSE courses commenced in Year 9, in line with our current curriculum model.

We do recognise though that the time between 'Lockdown' and commencing Key Stage 5 (KS5) courses in September is significant. As well as consolidating previous learning, all Year 11 students have been emailed a 'Future Steps' workbook to complete focusing on Personal Development and Careers. Our teaching staff will be populating a designated area, signposted on our website that will contain 'Bridging Work'. Its main purpose will be to provide stimulation and additional learning, but in particular it is there to engage students in their future course choices with; introductory tasks, wider reading material and other online resources to support a smooth transition into KS5.

More formal work that requires assessment will be called 'Summer Work Tasks', however, this will be provided later in the summer term.

I can also confirm that the GCSE results day will take place, as originally scheduled, on 20 August 2020. We will be in touch nearer the time with more information on this.

Finally, to those parents whose children are eligible for Free School Meals. The Government's own Free School Meal voucher provider, Edenred, has begun to issue supermarket vouchers to the value of £3 per day per child. After a slow start, things seem to be improving. Please be patient if you are struggling with the eCode. If you need any help with this please contact the school using our dedicated email address: fsm@holderness.academy

Take care and best wishes,



Scott Wilson
Headteacher