

11 November 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent

It is with regret that I write to inform you that with effect from **Thursday 12 November 2020** Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College will be closed for all learners for **two** days. We intend to reopen on **Monday 16 November** for students in **Year 7**, children of critical workers and our vulnerable children, unless the current situation changes. We will reopen again on **Monday 23 November** for all students with the exception of **Year 8** who will return on **Tuesday 24 November**.

The increasing rate of COVID-19 infection in the locality is making it extremely difficult to meet our first priority of keeping students and staff as safe as it is having a significant impact on the staffing levels available to enable us to safely open. The decision to close to all year groups except Year 7, children of critical workers and vulnerable children, is not one which is taken lightly and I have consulted with the Local Authority and Trust leaders and I am grateful for their support, to put our school and wider community at the heart of this precaution.

During this closure period we will be operating with a skeleton staff in school to ensure that you can continue to contact us with any queries around the work set or well-being concerns for your child. Whilst at the same time providing learning for Year 7, children of critical workers and vulnerable children. In addition, we will be conducting a deep clean of the entire site over the full closure in the next two days to ensure that when we return we are in the best possible position to return to full teaching for all year groups.

I must stress at this point that the staff and students have been exceptional at abiding by the new rules and hygiene measures within the school and we had no cases in the first half term, unlike many other schools nationally. The school community and school leaders are to be commended for their adaptability and efforts to keep each other safe while in the school.

Your child will continue to receive their curriculum with independent learning tasks to be completed at home through Google classroom. In line with the Trust Blended Learning Policy, this will be a mixture of independent learning activities, collaboration work and live lessons. Where a member of staff is technically absent due to illness, work will be set in that subject on their return. If your family has no access to a device or the internet to enable your child to complete their learning, please contact your child's Progress Leader or Pastoral Manager immediately so we can discuss options with you.

For those parents who work in critical sectors, we will offer a 'key worker' provision whereby students can continue to attend school under supervision to do the same work as their peers unless they have been asked to self-isolate during this time. They will not attend normal lessons. This will be available for families where both parents (or the sole parent) are critical workers. If you feel that your child is eligible for this provision or your child is vulnerable and also needs to remain in school, please contact Mr Truran on trurang@holderness.academy with details no later than 3pm on Friday 13 November, so that we can put this plan into operation. The critical worker list can be found [here](#).

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In our attempt to reduce transmission in the locality, please only request a place in our critical worker group if you have no other means of providing supervision for your child.

This is not for most students, unless you have received communication to the contrary, a period of self-isolation. Though I would advise parents to be cautious and follow the national lockdown rules to ensure that as a wider community we can have a positive impact in the infection rate in our locality.

Students that are FSM will be provided with a voucher that is redeemable at a range of supermarkets. We will contact you separately with more information if eligible. If your child is in the group that will continue to attend school and is FSM, they will be provided with a free lunch as catering provision will continue.

As a parent myself I fully appreciate the difficulties that this closure may cause to some of our families and I apologise for that. However, I must ensure that I am confident that staff and students are as safe as they can be when in school.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr S Wilson
Headteacher