

1 February 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week we continued our Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing programme for staff and students in school. So far, we have carried out over 150 tests and all of them have yielded negative results. I am delighted that those tested have fully understood the nature of the LFD testing and have continued to observe the HANDS - FACE - SPACE mantra. These tests are just one element in the mix of strategies that we hope will keep our community safe as we draw closer to a wider reopening. And then, on Wednesday, we heard a little more about when this might be. I know that it surprises some parents but we really do only find out this stuff at the same time as everyone else. We are now planning for the possibility of wider re-opening from 8 March. Until then we will continue with our remote learning programme and our blended provision.

I must thank you all again for the support that you are giving to the students and to the school. I am immensely proud of the provision that we have put in place and of the entire community for how we have collectively risen to the challenge and supported our young people. The number of reward stamps that were achieved by our students last week was phenomenal and they are now able to track these using the ClassCharts App - details of which have been sent to students.

Today sees the start of 'Children's Mental Health Week' which we will be marking in several ways and I urge you to get involved in the activities planned. It also sees the launch of 'Fitness February' with further information available during tutor time. We are also planning a follow up to Children's Mental Health Week with an 'Express Yourself' Day on Friday 12 February. More information will follow on the outline for the day but it will mean much less time in front of a screen and might also generate some interest in new activities that will be good for long-term learning and enjoyment.

Also, last week we were delighted that some of our students were able to take part in the national Holocaust Memorial Day event. Our Year 10,11,12 and 13 Philosophy and Ethics students were invited to take part in a live webinar from the Jewish Museum London. It was a great experience for the students and a real honour for the school to be selected to participate. The students who attended truly reflected the values of a Holderness Learner.

Finally, despite the talk of schools being closed, we have remained open for our Vulnerable and Critical Worker (VCW) groups throughout. In order to keep classes small, we can only accommodate further students if there is a real critical need or safeguarding concern. If your child is struggling with working at home, we are happy to speak to you or the student to offer help whilst they work from home. As ever, if

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THE CONSORTIUM
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there is anything that we can do to help with remote learning, please contact us via remotelearning@holderness.academy and our remote learning team will be happy to help.

One final reminder that the half term break begins at 3pm on Friday 12 February and there will be no remote learning or in-school teaching for VCW groups during that week.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Scott Wilson'.

Scott Wilson
Headteacher