

25 June 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

During the past week, we have seen over 250 of our students return to our school, supported by nearly one hundred staff.

It has taken a lot of work from staff at all levels to reach this point and I hope that all parents, whether your child has returned to school or not, will be reassured that we have been able to do this successfully. We have learned a lot too and we are confident that, when the time is right, we will be able to safely welcome back even more children. As you will know, the Government advice on schools opening was adjusted slightly earlier last week. They are now telling schools that, if they have the capacity to welcome back more children for a 'catch up meeting' before the end of term, then they may do so.

We are looking into various options which might allow us to welcome back more students, possibly those in Year 9, during the final week of term.

In welcoming back more children, it has become apparent that the lockdown experience has been very different for each of them. Most have been doing very well; some have been very honest and admitted that they have not done as much work as they could have done; others have faced very difficult circumstances which have prevented them from doing all of the work they have been set. The message to them and to all students is that it is never too late. Remember that all the tasks that have been set for your child are still there. If they haven't done them, they will have to do them at some stage so my advice would be to go back to those early tasks and start the process of catching up. It will make the return to school much easier and smoother, and your support with this is much appreciated.

There has recently been some talk of summer school, holiday clubs and catch up programmes. At this stage we know no more than what was contained in the prime minister's recent brief comments and what we have read in the newspapers since. No further detail has been provided to schools. We will, of course, share any information we receive in due course.

Perhaps the biggest question of all is "what happens in September?" The government has not yet produced guidance for schools, which is perhaps understandable given that we do not know where the infection will be in September. However, we do need to know soon what the government's thinking is so we can share that with you. It is our real hope that all students are back in school full time sooner rather than later.

It is clear that the factors that will decide whether young people are back full time or part time are the rates of infection nearer the time and what the reduction in social distancing means for schools. We are

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now planning in detail for a number of scenarios for September and will keep you fully informed on which is our likely working model. We are re-planning curriculums and further developing our IT so that if we are required to operate a reduced capacity, our young people have the best face to face teaching, supported by really well-planned remote working. Whatever September looks like, we will work really hard to catch all students up with anything they have missed and ensure they thrive in the future. Nothing is more important to any of us than that.

Thank you and take care,

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

Scott Wilson
Headteacher