

25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an absolute delight to see our learners and staff back together for the new academic year. We began by celebrating our best ever results and setting our ambitions for the year ahead. There is already a wonderful sense of energy and purpose across the Academy.

We have **welcomed Year 7 learners** from more than 30 different primary schools, and we have all been impressed by how quickly they have found their place at Holderness. Starting somewhere new takes courage, and they have approached it with confidence and resilience. They are showing aspiration in lessons, embracing extracurricular opportunities and treating one another with kindness as they make new friendships. They are already showing us what it means to be a Holderness learner.

Our Year 11 learners are equally focused on the year ahead. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout of learners and their families at the launch of our **Steps to Success** initiative and the focus workshops that followed. Our **Period 6 programme** begins on Monday. Last year, learners completed 3,500 additional hours of supported study through Period 6, contributing to the superb outcomes they achieved in the summer. That commitment to making the most of every opportunity, and the resilience to keep going when work becomes challenging, will serve this year's learners well.

There is already a packed programme of **careers and enrichment opportunities** planned for this half term. Fifty Year 11 learners will attend the annual Apprenticeship Event at Bishop Burton College to explore the pathways and careers available to them. Nine Year 8 learners have been selected for a visit to Hull Royal Infirmary, where they will gain an insight into careers in dentistry. Our entire Year 7 cohort will also enjoy a live performance about road safety next week, helping them build knowledge and skills they can use in everyday life. These experiences encourage our learners to look ahead with aspiration and make informed choices about their futures.

I am also delighted to share the progress being made on **The Beacon**, our new Learning Support area. The refurbishment is creating a welcoming space with new sensory areas and refreshed resources to support learners' learning and wellbeing. We are looking forward to the arrival of the new furniture, which will complete the transformation and allow us to make full use of this valuable provision.

This week, we have also enjoyed celebrating languages across the Academy ahead of **World Languages Day** on 26th September. Our Modern Foreign Languages department has brought learners and staff together through themed lunches, quizzes, competitions and a very impressive language inspired Bake Off. Staff have shared their own experiences of learning and using languages on posters displayed around the Academy, showing learners where languages can take them beyond the classroom. It has been a lovely opportunity to celebrate different cultures and show respect for the many languages and experiences that enrich our community.

Our learners have also made us proud in **sport**. The Year 8 football team earned a 1–0 cup victory against Humberston, showing real determination after a difficult start. Our Year 11 rugby team faced Malet Lambert with only 12 players and lost another to an early injury. Playing with 11 against 12, they came within one try of one of Hull's strongest teams, finishing 28–22. Their resilience and pride in representing Holderness were clear throughout.

The Year 10 girls' football team showed that same spirit in their National Cup match away to Malet Lambert. With just 10 players in challenging heat, they worked for one another until the final whistle and played some excellent football. The Year 10 football team also gave everything against Healing, drawing 3–3 before narrowly losing 5–3 on penalties. Whatever the score, all these teams can be proud of the commitment, respect and teamwork they showed.

It was a pleasure, too, to welcome Year 6 football teams from seven of our cluster primary schools. We saw excellent skills and teamwork throughout the event. Congratulations to Inmans on qualifying for the large schools final and Preston on qualifying for the small schools final. We wish both teams the very best of luck!

Another highlight was our **Year 5 and 6 Open Evening**. On a lovely sunny evening, we welcomed more than 300 families to explore the Academy and meet our learners and staff. Our visitors enjoyed science experiments, sports challenges, surreal art, codebreaking, Spanish mosaics and a Victorian detective mystery in the library. They tested their times tables against a teacher, explored questions about crime and punishment, and even discussed the meaning of life!

What made the evening especially memorable was the pride our learners took in sharing their Academy and favourite subjects. More than 100 stayed behind to help, including 12 of our new Year 7 learners who volunteered as guides. Their enthusiasm, confidence and kindness brought the evening to life. The warmth and joy throughout the Academy left us energised and excited to welcome the next generation into the Holderness family.

This year, we have made some minor changes to the **rewards** element of our policy. The value of our ARRK awards has been increased, providing students with greater opportunities to achieve these throughout their five-year journey at Holderness Academy.

To support the introduction of these enhanced rewards, all student ARRK points will be reset at the October half-term break. We strongly encourage students to redeem their existing ARRK points for rewards of their choice through the eRewards Shop by **26th October 2026** using the following link: [Holderness Academy - Rewards Order Form](#). *Please note that this link can only be accessed using a Holderness Microsoft account.*

Our Rewards & Behaviour Policy can be found on our website. Please see the link below:

Our 'Student Data Protection statement' and 'Learners and their Families Data Protection Statement' can be accessed via our website using the following link - [Holderness Academy - Statutory Information and Policies](#).

Please see below the key dates for the autumn term. A link to the term dates for the current academic year is also provided below for your reference.

[Holderness Academy - Term Dates](#)

Key Dates	
Year 7 & Year 11 Photographs	Wednesday 7 th October 2026
Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' Evening	Thursday 22 nd October 2026
Academy closed to all students	Friday 23 rd October 2026
October Half Term	Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October
Year 7 Full Year Group Photo	Wednesday 11 th November 2026
Year 9 Options Evening	Thursday 12 th November 2026
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Thursday 3 rd December 2026

Thank you to our learners, staff and families for such a start to the year. We look forward to all that our community will achieve together in 2026 - 27.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Holder
Headteacher