

22nd October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that everyone who visited Hull Fair had an enjoyable time and, most importantly, stayed safe. **Hull Fair** is such a well-loved tradition in our local community and always seems to signal the arrival of colder weather and darker evenings. As we approach the half-term break, there is much to celebrate from the past fortnight at Holderness Academy, with our learners continuing to embrace opportunities, demonstrate their talents and make us proud through their achievements.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the aspiration and creativity of our young people recognised beyond the Academy. We were delighted to learn that two of our talented learners, Eve Cooke and Scarlett Robinson, had both been awarded first prizes in this year's **Young Artist Open exhibition** at the Ferens Art Gallery in Hull. Eve's artwork, *Hull Marina*, was awarded first prize by the Arts Society Hull and East Riding, while Scarlett's *Portrait* received first prize from the Friends of the Ferens, both in the 12–15 age category. The girls celebrated their achievements with their families at the awards ceremony on 10 October, a very special occasion and one of which they should be immensely proud.

Adding to this success, a further 24 of our Key Stage 3 learners had their artwork selected for the exhibition. With over 700 entries submitted this year, the scale of this achievement is particularly impressive and reflects the imagination, dedication and resilience involved in developing their artistic talents. The exhibition runs from 16 October until 10 January 2027, and I would encourage families to take the opportunity to visit the gallery and see the work for themselves.

Our Year 10 Sociology and Psychology learners also enjoyed an exciting opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom when **30 learners visited Hull Combined Courts**. During their visit, they explored the court buildings, met judges and court staff, and gained a fascinating insight into the Criminal Justice System. They also had the opportunity to participate in a mock trial and learn more about the range of careers available within the legal profession. Experiences such as these play an important part in raising aspirations, allowing learners to connect their studies with the world of work and consider pathways they may not previously have explored.

We have also been celebrating the commitment of our learners to excellent attendance, recognising the important part that being in school every day plays in their learning and achievement. **Congratulations to 8MCO**, who secured the highest tutor group attendance in September and enjoyed a well-deserved breakfast and drink reward. Our **October winners, 7DBE**, were equally delighted to receive an extended pizza and chips lunch in

recognition of their achievement. Alongside these monthly incentives, learners who achieve 100% attendance each week receive 30 ARRK points, recognising their commitment to making the most of every school day. It has been lovely to see so many learners earning these rewards since September. Thank you to our families for their continued support in promoting good attendance and helping our young people develop the habits that will support their future success. We look forward to seeing which tutor group will be celebrating next!

There has been **plenty to celebrate on the sporting front** over the past fortnight, with our learners demonstrating determination, teamwork and resilience across a range of fixtures. Our Year 8 girls' football team produced an outstanding performance against a strong St Mary's side in the National Cup, drawing 2–2 after extra time before securing a thrilling 8–7 victory on penalties to progress to the next round. Our Year 7 boys also made an impressive start to their National Cup campaign with a convincing 4–0 away victory against Ormiston Academy. Meanwhile, our Year 11 boys showed great commitment against South Hunsley, despite a 4–0 defeat, creating several promising opportunities against strong opposition.

On the rugby field, our Year 9 boys enjoyed an excellent 25–18 victory over Beverley Grammar, while another Year 9 fixture saw the team battle hard in a 24–12 defeat against Marvell. Our Year 7 boys demonstrated tremendous character in a hard-fought 20–14 victory over Withernsea and, despite a 26–12 defeat in their subsequent fixture against Marvell, showed real resilience in an impressive second-half fightback. It has been particularly pleasing to see our younger learners embracing the opportunity to represent the Academy with such enthusiasm and pride. We were also delighted to host the SSP East Riding Football Finals, welcoming local primary schools to Holderness. Congratulations to Inmans Primary School on their excellent second-place finish. My thanks go to our PE staff for providing these opportunities and to all our learners for the respect, sportsmanship and commitment they continue to demonstrate when representing the Academy.

We were also delighted to welcome five former learners, who attended Holderness during the 1980s, back to the Academy as part of our **Academy in Action visits**. Their return provided a rather special opportunity to reflect on how much has changed over the years, and perhaps more importantly, how much has remained the same. As they explored the Academy, memories came flooding back. They recalled playing squares on the playground, revisited their old form rooms and stood in the Main Hall, which they all remembered as being so much bigger! It was a heartwarming and, at times, poignant visit, reminding us of the important part a school community plays in shaping the people we become. The friendships, experiences and memories formed during our school years can stay with us for a lifetime, and it was lovely to see the affection and sense of belonging that Holderness continues to inspire so many years later.

As the evenings grow darker and the colder weather sets in, I would ask families to remind learners of the importance of staying safe and visible when travelling to and from the Academy, particularly when walking or cycling. With **Halloween and Bonfire Night** approaching, there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy time with family and friends. These occasions are an important part of our local traditions, and I hope everyone enjoys them safely and responsibly. Showing respect for our neighbours and kindness towards others, particularly those who may find the noise and excitement of seasonal celebrations unsettling, is a simple but important way of looking after the wider community.

Parent/Carer reminders

Menus and tariffs for our **canteen** can be found on our website, using the following link: [Holderness Academy - Catering](#)

As we reach the half-term break, I would like to remind families that **the Academy will be closed to learners on Friday 23rd October**, as staff undertake a programme of Continuing Professional Development and Learning (CPDL). This dedicated time allows colleagues to reflect on and further develop their practice, ensuring we continue to provide the very best learning experiences for our young people.

Key Dates	
Academy closed to all students	Friday 23 rd October 2026
October Half Term	Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October
Academy reopens to all students	Monday 2 nd November
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

I would like to thank our learners, staff and families for their continued support and wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable half-term break. I look forward to welcoming our learners back to the Academy, refreshed and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Holder
Headteacher