

9th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was a delight this week to see the **form and individual photographs** of our youngest and oldest year groups. Seeing Year 7 at the beginning of their journey with us and Year 11 entering their final year is a poignant reminder of how important a learner's time at Holderness Academy is. These photographs capture a moment in years filled with discovery, growing confidence and lasting friendships. It is a privilege to share that journey with our learners and families, and to see the young people they become.

There has been much to feel proud of in the last two weeks, with learners embracing opportunities including trips, visits and events to develop their interests, raise their aspirations and contribute to our wider community.

As part of their GCSE Geography course, Year 11 learners recently spent an afternoon in **Beverley** investigating the impact and success of the Flemingate regeneration project. They carried out fieldwork, collecting data and gathering evidence to evaluate the development. Particularly pleasing were the comments from members of the public, who took the time to praise their politeness, respect and engagement, describing them as a credit to the academy. Such recognition means a great deal: we are proud to see our learners demonstrating Respect beyond the classroom and representing Holderness so positively.

On Thursday 1 October, 40 of our KS4 Creative Arts learners enjoyed an inspiring visit to **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** in Wakefield. Exploring the galleries and outdoor sculpture trails, they examined the materials, techniques and ideas behind a wide range of contemporary and modern artworks. Experiencing art first-hand broadened their knowledge and offered fresh inspiration for their coursework. Staff were delighted by their enthusiasm, creativity and excellent behaviour, and it was wonderful to see their artistic aspirations grow.

Our **careers programme** continues to open doors and help learners turn aspiration into informed choices about their futures. Year 11 attended the annual Apprenticeship Event at **Bishop Burton College**, speaking directly with employers and training providers about their next steps. An assembly delivered by **Wilberforce College** also introduced them to the range of academic and vocational pathways available after Year 11.

A group of Year 8 learners were privileged guests to a **Dental Day Experience** at Hull Royal Infirmary, gaining hands-on insight into careers in dentistry and the skills needed to work within the NHS. Meanwhile, Year 9 learners attended the **Women into Manufacturing and Engineering (WiME)** event at Hull Guildhall, meeting inspiring female role models and exploring opportunities across these industries. Learners' exceptional behaviour throughout these experiences were, yet again, commented on leaving us feel immensely proud. We are grateful to our partners and providers for sharing their expertise and helping our young people see what their futures could hold.

Year 7 enjoyed a theatrical show called RIOT which presented important **road safety** messages, offering practical advice on travelling safely and making responsible choices. Learning to take care of themselves and consider others is an important part of their growing independence within our community.

In Performing Arts, excitement is building as final rehearsals take place for the much-anticipated **Holderness Has Talent** show. We look forward to celebrating the creativity and talent of our learners in what promises to be a wonderful evening. Rehearsals are also underway for our spring production of **Oliver!**, with learners preparing to bring this much-loved musical to life through acting, singing and dancing. It takes courage to step onto a stage, resilience to keep practising and kindness to encourage fellow performers. We are proud of everyone taking part and grateful to the staff whose commitment gives our learners these opportunities to shine.

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome over 150 children from Years 1–6 to our **primary cross-country event**, some competing for the very first time. Their determination, enthusiasm and encouragement of one another made it a wonderful afternoon and a lovely opportunity to bring our local school community together. Congratulations to the top 10 finishers, who qualified for the forthcoming final. A special thank you goes to our outstanding learner leaders, whose care, encouragement and hard work helped make the event such a success. They were wonderful ambassadors for Holderness Academy and showed Kindness in action.

Our **academy teams** have also given us much to celebrate through their teamwork, commitment and Resilience. In rugby, Year 7 secured a 26–10 victory away at Liberty Academy, while Year 11 overcame a slow start to win 36–18 at South Hunsley. Year 10 competed determinedly until the final whistle in a 30–14 defeat to St Mary's. In football, Year 9 followed a closely contested first half with a strong second-half performance, beating Woldgate 3–1 to progress in the cup. We are proud of the effort and sportsmanship shown across all these fixtures and thank the staff who support and encourage our teams.

As autumn takes hold, the arrival of Hull Fair marks a much-loved, long-standing local tradition that many of our families look forward to enjoying. We hope you have a wonderful time and ask for your support in maintaining our excellent attendance by planning visits outside school hours, with time for a good night's rest before the next school day. Please encourage your child to stay with friends, keep their phone charged and agree clear arrangements for getting home. Looking out for one another, keeping valuables secure and knowing to seek help from fair staff or the police will help everyone enjoy this autumn highlight safely.

Key Dates	
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, as always, for your continued support. There is much to celebrate within our academy community, and it is a pleasure to recognise the achievements, effort and kindness of our young people alongside the dedication of those who support them.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Holder
Headteacher