

5 November 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have managed to have an enjoyable half term.

Over the past three weeks, it has been fantastic to welcome parents/carers into the Academy to see the *Academy in Action*. The sessions have been really positive and something that we will do again in the summer term. On Wednesday 20 October, we also had our first Parent Forum – again, a very positive meeting and something that will take place every half term. It was decided that we would set up a Facebook account to keep you updated with events at the Academy and to further improve our communication with you.

Parents in attendance also enquired about the meaning of safeguarding:

Safeguarding

Keeping your child safe is our priority and safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. **Child protection** is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

In a recent safeguarding audit conducted by external visitors to the school, our school was judged to have a real 'culture of safeguarding' where students unanimously felt safe in school. Nevertheless, we continually reflect on our practice and always look for ways to improve further. For example, we are now a certified school for Online Safety and you will receive regular online safety updates through our website, Facebook and twitter pages. More information on this will follow in my correspondence to you next week.

In addition, please look out for a new area on our website under Care and Support, which will provide you with a key contacts list of staff.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Today's young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. This is why Relationships and Sex Education is compulsory in all secondary schools.

Our RSE policy is currently being reviewed. We are keen for you to continue to be part of that process. Please could I ask you to take a few mins to complete this [survey](#) which will be used to update our policy. In the meantime, should you have any concerns about the policy or to discuss your right to withdraw your child from non-statutory elements of RSE and Health Education, please use our designated email address rse@holderness.academy

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Teaching and Learning

This academic year, as part of our ongoing development of Teaching for Learning, we are developing our pedagogy to promote a sequence of practices to ensure students know more, remember more and can do more. Learning episodes follow the cycle of reviewing previous learning, questioning that checks understanding, modelling the learning and practicing the learning.

Lessons open with an Aim Higher starter that revisit previous learning using recall and retrieval activities to consolidate learning.

This term we are reflecting on our use of a range of questioning techniques; this includes a practice called Cold Calling. This technique helps address two main purposes of questioning: making all students think and providing feedback to the teacher about how things are going. This avoids 'hands up' or calling out which limits responses from volunteers only. Cold Calling allows the teacher to choose who answers, keeping the whole class involved and giving the teacher better information to plan the next steps. This involves the question being asked, thinking time being given for everyone and then students being selected to share their thinking.

Other techniques include the use of mini whiteboards, checking for understanding and process questions.

Next term we will be building on this with a further focus on a range of techniques that model how students can know more, remember more and do more.

Facebook sign up

Please see below the new Holderness Academy Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/346675060569115>.

So that we can verify and accept your request to join our Facebook group, please email office@holderness.academy using the title 'Facebook Page' providing your child's name, your child's Year group and your Facebook username. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours faithfully



Mr S Wilson
Headteacher