

9th September 2022



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the sombre news yesterday of the death of Queen Elizabeth II there is a reflective mood around school today. It is remarkable to think that everyone in the school has only ever experienced the reign of one monarch. Her commitment to public service and the duty she has been bound by, and embraced, since the young age of 25, is inspirational and something that should be admired.

During the day we have taken time with our learners to reflect on her reign, through a presentation and watching the 96 rounds gun salutes marking each year of her life being fired in Hyde Park and elsewhere in the UK at 1pm. I am sure you will agree that this historic event and our Queen's legacy is deserving of our thoughts and time.

During this period of national mourning, we will pause all social media content from school and Trust social media accounts. We will only send out urgent communications. We will inform parents and other relevant stakeholders of any changes to business operations if appropriate. After 10 days, all communications will resume as normal.

As it was my intention to write to you at the end of this first week, I felt pertinent to still do so, in order to update you on the how the first week of this new academic year has gone.

It has been a great start to the academic year and has been fantastic to welcome students back into the building. There is a real buzz around the place and the students, although not used to waking up so early, are pleased to be back.

This week we welcomed into the school record numbers in Year 7. I am sure that the great start made by the students in Year 7 is linked to the great transition.

Uniform

Can I thank parents and carers for supporting the school and its uniform policy; the students look absolutely fantastic. I am a firm believer that people who look smart and take pride in their appearance are also people who work smart and want to succeed and do well. As a school we will work hard to maintain a high standard of uniform such as that being set in the first week back.

Uniform donations

If any families out there have any old items of uniform, which are in reasonable condition, that they no longer require, we would appreciate these as donations to the school to support our current students. Donations can be dropped off at Main Reception during the school day. Alternatively, students can drop donations off to their year area. We will make sure these are freshly laundered and given a new lease of life with our students.



Support

We are committed to ending period poverty by making sanitary products available for students throughout the building. We are also making available to students some basic equipment so that not having school equipment is not a barrier to learning.

To further reduce the financial burden on parents and carers we are allowing students to wear both black or navy leggings or tracksuit bottoms for PE lessons, as we know a lot of students already have those at home.

Building works

I would like to draw to your attention some significant building work that we have had completed over the summer holidays. In two areas of the school, we have additional outside seating placed under new canopies. These canopies are significant cost, but it does mean that students have much better facilities at break and lunchtime should they wish to remain outdoors. This week we have received many positive comments from the students about them. We have also had significant refurbishment throughout the building including many new carpets, blinds and tables and chairs. Can I thank the Site Team who have done a stunning job in improving the school site for the students, managing these big projects and completing them before the school re-opened.



Attendance

One thing we did learn from the summer exam series was the impact attendance had on student outcomes. Students who had attendance of 95% and over, achieved on average $\frac{3}{4}$ of a grade better per subject than students who had attendance below that. National data shows that students who are not in school cannot access the curriculum fully and so cannot achieve their full potential. That is why this year we will be raising the profile of attendance in school even further.

ClassCharts & Rewards

In an extension to our rewards system on ClassCharts, we are allowing parents and carers to reward their child/children for things they do at home. If your child has done something that meets our school values such as showing kindness or being resilient, they can be rewarded, by you, for this on ClassCharts. These results will be included in the reward total in school. Through the ClassCharts account parents can also access the online shop to purchase items for their child. Items purchased will then be delivered in school. If you require the unique code for your parent account please contact Mrs Drew, PD Manager via email drewe@holderness.academy.

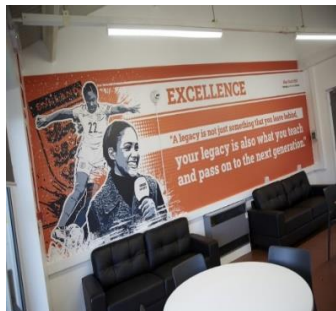
Parental engagement accounts

Over the summer we moved the school's computer system over to a central service. I apologise for some of the inconveniences this has caused such as not linking with Schoolcomms accounts and our reward system on ClassCharts.

Sixth Form

We are pleased to announce that all the Sixth Form colleges in the Trust have now joined together to form The Consortium Sixth Form College! This collaborative partnership will bring a host of benefits for our students and, in addition to free transport and increased enrichment opportunities, a significant amount of refurbishment work was carried out in the Sixth Form over the summer break.

The students were delighted to return and find that all the classrooms and common areas have been redecorated and fitted out with new furniture. All the laptops have been upgraded and a fantastic outdoor area has been created for the students to study and relax in!



Travel to and from School

Students walking or biking to and from school:

- Students are **not** to cross the bus park entrance.
- Students walking from Hedon **must** use the path by the side of the 'house' to enter the site and, if going to upper school, **must** remain on the pavement that goes around the back of the bus park by the school.
- Students coming from Preston can enter the school using either the gate of the staff carpark entrance or the entrance opposite the reception.
- When students are leaving the same routes **must** be taken.
- When travelling by bike, students **must** dismount when entering the site and follow the same pedestrian routes
- Students **must not** walk on the bus park at any time.

When travelling by bus:

- Students **must** remain seated until the bus stops.
- When students dismount the bus, they **must** remain on the pedestrian paths.
- Students **must not** walk on the bus park.

When travelling by car:

- Please use the bus park entrance only.
- The staff carpark gate will be closed. Please **do not** use this entrance to drop off or turn around.
- Please respectfully follow instructions given by staff directing traffic.
- Please only drop students off alongside the kerb.
- Please do not drop off students on the island or near the buses.
- Ensure all students use the pedestrian footpaths and **do not** walk on the bus park.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Cannon
Interim Headteacher