

18 December 2020



**Holderness Academy**  
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I feel I must apologise for the late notification to you of the change to our planned return to the new Spring Term in January. Unfortunately, we are being directed at late notice, by the Government, to return our young people on a phased basis for the week commencing Monday 4 January 2021. In line with that directive the following arrangements will be in place for the start of term.

### **Tuesday 5 January 2021**

All exam groups will return to school as arranged, this is all **Year 11 and 13** learners.

If your child has previously attended school as an identified vulnerable learner or both parents are critical workers, your child will be expected to attend school. If you believe your child is in this category and will be attending school, please let us know so that we can plan accordingly by emailing [welfare@holderness.academy](mailto:welfare@holderness.academy) with your child's name and year group no later than **11am on Monday 4 January 2021**. The updated critical workers list can be found [here](#).

All other young people will be receiving blended learning at home and should not physically attend.

### **From Monday 11 January 2021**

All young people will attend school physically to engage in their learning as usual.

I do appreciate that late notice changes may cause families great difficulty but I am communicating this to you at the earliest possible opportunity.

You may also have seen the widely reported mass testing of staff and young people in school from 4 January. Though this is a voluntary test for all groups, I am sure you will appreciate that an operation of this size requires careful planning. To reassure you at this time we will not be instigating Lateral Flow Testing in school from 4 January. I will write to you again when the guidance is clearer about the expectations to be placed on schools.

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone but I am immensely proud of our entire school community; staff, students, parents and wider families. All have played their part in ensuring that students have stayed safe and that learning has continued throughout the year, whether it be online or in a classroom. I thank you for everything you have done to support the school and most especially for the kind words that have often been sent our way in appreciation. They really do mean the world to us in school.

I enclose a useful infographic outlining what you should do if your child tests positive for Covid-19 during the Christmas break. Please refer to this if you are in this position and contact us via our office email [office@holderness.academy](mailto:office@holderness.academy).

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We continue to uphold our health and safety expectations and will do so when we return to school in January. Please ensure that your child has a face covering before they leave home each morning and talk to them about the importance of following all the necessary guidelines both in school and out in the community. We will, once again, take a zero tolerance approach to any student that puts others at risk by not following Covid-19 safety rules. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous, healthy and (hopefully) Covid-free New Year!

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Wilson', written in black ink.

Mr S Wilson  
Headteacher