

22 July 2022



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final day of term, I thought I would write to you all to try to draw to a close what has been in many ways a unique year.

As we come to the end of the academic year it is naturally a time to reflect on the year. We came back in September thinking that we would be back to normal in schools, but as things transpired this was far from the truth. If we want to use a football analogy, then this year has been a year of two halves. The first half of the year characterised by high levels of absent staff and students due to COVID for both. For all schools this brought significant challenges. The first challenge was to normalise student behaviours as they had spent so long out of a normal school routine. The second half of the year saw staffing absence stabilise and a return to what could be considered normality with all the activities going on in the school. This is typified by over the year we have seen a dramatic decline in student behaviour incidents and significant rise in rewards as our students have settled back into schooling.

Whilst the school has been open we have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure we are ready for September. During the summer term/holidays we are making a number of upgrades in the school. We have had to start planning earlier this year because of the long lead in time for materials.

We have also been busy replacing a number of carpets in the school, new blinds in a number of classrooms and redecoration in key areas. In addition to this a large number of classrooms will be receiving new furniture. We are also refurbishing a number of changing rooms, the Leonardo area and looking to install two very large canopies in the school grounds. This is a considerable investment in the school and in a time of rising costs demonstrates our commitment to improving student experiences in the school.

In September I will continue in my role as Interim Headteacher until the end of the first term when the new Headteacher will start. I have been asked numerous times by students, staff, parents and carers why I did not apply for the role of Headteacher. The answers are these. This school requires stability in leadership going forward and in a few years' time I am looking to retire. It would not be fair to take on a role that requires stability to add to the turbulence by leaving at a time when that would be detrimental to the development of the school. Secondly, my heart is still in Howden. I love working with the staff and students at Holderness, but Howden is my school. What the school will get with Mr Holder is someone who is as invested in Holderness as I am in Howden.

I would like to draw to your attention some subtle changes to how we operate first aid at Holderness. First aid is the initial, immediate help that is given to someone who suffers an injury or illness. In the case of minor injuries and illnesses, first aid may be sufficient. **The aim of first aid is also known as the three Ps:**

- **Promote** recovery.
- **Prevent** the situation from worsening.
- **Preserve** life.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Some common accidents and emergencies you should be prepared for are:

Anaphylactic shock, Cuts, bleeding, and blood loss, Burns and scalding, Choking, Head injuries, Injuries such as sprains, fractures, and breaks, Muscle and joint injuries, Asthma attacks, Unconsciousness or unresponsiveness, Fainting, collapsing and seizures, Poisoning, Shock and Incidents that require CPR.

The key function of our first aider at Holderness is to act as a main first aid person at key times during the school day. With this in mind we are asking teachers only to send students to first aid at appropriate times and for appropriate first aid issues. A decision to send a student to the first aider is based upon the 3 P's mentioned previously.

In September we will introduce a new set of food menus in the school. These menus are based upon student surveys and the healthy eating guidelines. In relation to price increases we will continue to provide the meal deal option of £2.60 main meal, dessert, and a drink (includes main meal/street food/pasta) and the £2.45 meal deal of a main meal and dessert. The tariff for all other food items will increase in line with Consumer Price Index which is currently 9%, however we have tried to limit the impact on the healthy options and I think it is testament to the work of the central team at TCAT that we have been able to offer the core meal deal at the same price in a time of high food price inflation.

This year we have a number of staff leaving the academy. I am delighted to report however that we are fully staffed in core areas for September. In a time of national teacher shortages this is a great achievement for the school and shows we are working towards becoming the employer of choice.

Staff Departing

Mrs Benson, Mr Drury, Miss McKay, Mr Allen, Mrs Dibnah, Miss Barley, Miss Ward, Mr Agar, Mr Norrie. We wish them all the best in their future careers and thank them for their time at Holderness working with our young people.

New Starters

Miss Chapman (Business & IT), Mr Brattan (Health & Social Care/PE), Miss Eastwood (English)
Miss Wiles (Maths), Mr Fleming (Philosophy & Ethics), Mr Campbell (Science), Mr Buckley (IT/Computer Science).

Internal Appointment

Mrs Fisher (Curriculum Leader of Business & IT)
Miss Holmes (Assistant Head of Science)
Miss Austin (Deputy Head of English)

We have a very clear uniform policy, and our expectation is that all students in Years 7 to 11 will adhere fully to that policy at all times, unless emergency circumstances prohibit this. Can I ask Parents/Carers to continue to support the school in ensuring that their children attend school wearing the correct uniform in September as per the email sent yesterday. The full policy can be found on our [website](#) and I would ask you to refer to this before any new purchases are made for September.

Some important dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 6 September 2022	Academy reopens to Year 7 and Year 12 students
Wednesday 7 September 2022	Academy reopens to all students
Friday 16 September 2022	School Photographs (Years 7 & 11 individual & groups; Year 9 individual)
Wednesday 14 September 2022	Year 7 Virtual Information Evening
W/C 26 September 2022	Access Reading and Maths Test (Year 7 – Year 9)
Wednesday 28 September 2022	Year 11 'Steps to Success' Information Evening
W/C 3 October 2022	Year 13 CAEs
Friday 21 October 2022	Academy closed to students
31 October – 11 November 2022	Year 11 CAEs
Thursday 3 November 2022	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 10 November 2022	Year 7 Settling in Evening
28 November – 9 December 2022	Year 10 CAEs
Thursday 1 December 2022	Year 12 & 13 Progress Evening
Friday 16 December 2022	End of autumn term – Academy closes at 2pm

As the year now draws to a close, may I take this opportunity on behalf of everyone here at Holderness to express our thanks to all families for your continued support over recent months. I am incredibly grateful for the support and resilience that has been shown. Can I wish you a happy and restful summer; we look forward to welcoming our young people back in September and continuing to work with all families.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Cannon
Interim Headteacher