

24 March 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent

We hope you are well.

Yesterday, our school opened for a small number of students at Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College. All of the children responded incredibly well to the situation; they had lessons, break and lots of fresh air. Some have made new friends. You should be proud of them, and their parents, who are making a huge contribution to the efforts to fight the virus.

For those of you that have kept your children at home, thank you. In doing so, you are also playing your part.

I hope that you will have been able to access the work that our staff have placed online. If you have had difficulty, please bear with us. This is a huge undertaking for over a hundred staff to create and set work. We won't get it right every time but we are doing our best. Please let us know if you are having difficulty and we will try to resolve the problem via remotelarning@holderness.academy

There has been lots of discussion in the media and online about the difficulty of 'home-schooling' your child. I would like to address this and reassure you about what is expected.

Firstly, this is not really 'home schooling'. 'Home schooling' is where you have made the conscious choice to become your child's school teacher. We know that is not the case and certainly not something that is easy for you to do, especially if you are trying to do it with more than one child, while also working from home yourself. We will set work, either online or through work packs. We advise that you put some structure into your day but, if this is difficult, do whatever is best in your home, in your family. Certainly, do not allow yourself, or your children, to become stressed about it. Try to keep perspective.

Secondly, there are many ways in which children can learn. We can only set tasks that can be done in packs, or online. If you have better ideas about how your child can learn at home, go for it.

We will provide work but you know best how to manage your child's routine at home. Certainly, regardless of what topics they are covering, all children will be well-provided for, if they are doing some of this:

- A bit of reading every day
- Some writing now and then – could they keep a diary?
- Practical hands on-maths, via cooking or outside games
- Physical exercise every day
- Some art and music where possible
- Something that stretches them – if they're old enough, give them something to research, or watch a documentary and then write a factsheet or make a poster. They could study a country for a whole week, looking at the food, the language, the culture. Then present their findings to the family at the weekend.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator



We will keep you up to date in the coming days and weeks with regards to work that we are setting. Please feel free to get in touch to let us know how it is going and how we can improve what we are sending.

Take care and very best regards.

Yours faithfully,

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

Scott Wilson
Headteacher