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21st March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Spring is here, and with it, we are delighted to reopen the field at lunchtime. Our learners have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity, and we want to commend them on their excellent conduct and the respect they have shown for our environment by keeping the area free of rubbish. Well done to all!

Today, we are delighted to be raising funds for Comic Relief with a non-uniform day. In addition, we are supporting the local charity, Downright Special, by encouraging our learners to wear odd socks. A particular highlight of the day has been our very-popular chocolate tombola, expertly organised by Miss Meek and Dylan in Year 9. Thank you to all who have contributed to these fantastic causes.

It has been a busy and exciting week at Holderness Academy, particularly with our career's events. On Thursday, we hosted our Year 10 Careers Fair in the Main Hall, where we welcomed a range of providers, including Barclays, the British Army, and HETA. These organisations generously gave their time to provide our learners with invaluable labour market information (LMI). Students were equipped with questionnaires to help them engage with the providers and explore potential career pathways. Well done to all of Year 10 for showing aspiration and making the most of this opportunity.

On the same afternoon, we were pleased to welcome Cranswick Foods, who delivered an impressive butchery demonstration workshop. A select group of Year 11 learners had the opportunity to take part, even learning how to plait sausages, and gained valuable insight into the food industry.

We are also thrilled to announce the winners of our highly anticipated World Book Day competition, The Masked Reader. Staff members hid their faces behind their favourite books, challenging learners to guess their identities. It was fantastic to see so many learners enthusiastically take part in this competition. After much excitement and detective work, four winners were chosen—one from each year group from Years 7 to 11—through a prize draw. Each winner will receive a £10 Amazon gift voucher. Congratulations to our lucky winners!

Our learners have also enjoyed a fantastic fortnight of sporting achievements, demonstrating resilience and respect in their pursuits. We are extremely proud to share that Dylan in Year 10 has been signed for the Hull FC scholarship programme—an incredible achievement and a testament to his hard work and dedication. Additionally, our Year 9 Boys Rugby team secured an impressive 36-4 victory against Sirius West, advancing to the next round of the Yorkshire Plate. Our KS3 Archery team also showcased their talent, achieving second place at the East Riding Archery Event. Furthermore, our Year 9 boys participated in the 'Future Robins' tournament, where their respectful conduct both on and off the pitch was highly praised by other schools. Well done to all our athletes for their resilience and sportsmanship!

Additionally, a group of our aspirational learners took part in the IET Faraday Challenge Day at Winifred Holtby Academy. This STEM-based competition introduces learners to engineering and inspires them to consider careers in the field. Our learners performed exceptionally well, impressing providers with their teamwork and innovative ideas. They built a robotic guide dog, and a game designed to help children learn the names of animals. We were incredibly close to victory, finishing less than five points behind the winning team. A fantastic achievement!

We are also delighted to share that our attendance remains above the national average. This is a fantastic reflection of our learners' dedication to their learning and the support from parents and carers in reinforcing the importance of attendance. Well, done to everyone for their aspiration and commitment.

Our ABM Catering Team have created a special menu for learners who will enjoy a variety of freshly made Caribbean sweet treats. They will be served on the 27th March in our canteens and include delicious delights such as Belizean fudge, Jamaican Ginger Cake, and Coconut Cheesecake. Please find attached a menu for further information.

Finally, we acknowledge that many parents may be feeling increasingly concerned about topics such as the 'manosphere,' bullying, and online safety, which have been brought to the forefront by the recent Netflix drama Adolescence. As part of our commitment to kindness and respect, we want to support our learners and families in staying safe online. To help, we would like to signpost you to our online safety advice page: <u>Online Safety</u> - <u>Holderness Academy</u>. Additionally, we kindly ask parents to complete the following training, which will contribute to our Online Safety

Accreditation:

Annual Award in Online Safety for Parents of Children 11-14 Annual Award in Online Safety for Parents of Children 14-18

Thank you for your continued support in fostering aspiration, resilience, respect, and kindness within our school community.

Some key dates detailed below:

Key Dates for Spring Term 2	
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Thursday 3 rd April
Easter Holidays	Monday 7 th April - Monday 21 st April
Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May

With best wishes for the remainder of this term.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Holder Headteacher