

7th March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am delighted to write to you with some wonderful updates as we reflect on the achievements and values that continue to define our school community.

It has been an exciting start to the term, having just returned from two incredible trips to Iceland and Italy. These opportunities provided our learners with rich educational experiences and have proven to be truly unforgettable. I am incredibly proud to share that our learners have received glowing praise from tour operators, hosts, and members of the public. They have been commended for the exemplary way they have represented Holderness Academy – truly embodying the values of **aspiration, resilience, respect, and kindness**.

Our learners have demonstrated outstanding **resilience** in navigating new environments and challenges, showing an eagerness to learn and grow, even in unfamiliar circumstances. They have acted with the utmost **respect** towards both their peers and the people they encountered on their travels, and their **kindness** towards others has been a shining example of the positive impact they can have on the world around them. Most importantly, they have shown what it truly means to be an ambassador for Holderness Academy, and for that, we are extremely proud.

We also commenced the term as **East Riding Champions**, with both our KS3 girls' and boys' Dodgeball teams emerging victorious in their respective competitions. This outstanding achievement highlights the talent, teamwork, and determination of our learners, and we are incredibly proud of their success.

Our sporting triumphs don't stop there. The Year 7 boys' football team showcased their skill and resilience with an impressive 7-1 victory over Hornsea, securing their place in the **East Riding final**. Meanwhile, our Year 9 boys' football team delivered a thrilling performance against Howden, earning a well-deserved spot in the **Humberside Cup Final**.

In addition to these wonderful achievements, we are thrilled to have arrived back to commence work on our **Rat sculpture** for the **Hull Project Mischief**. The sculpture is now proudly displayed in the Creative Arts Suite, where our learners have already started on the design work. We look forward to seeing it installed in Hedon, where it will become part of the trail that is set to launch soon. This project is a fantastic opportunity for our learners to contribute to a wider community initiative and continue to showcase their creativity and talent.

We also had a successful **Year 9 Options Evening**, where parents and learners visited the school to speak with teachers about the exciting curriculum options available at Holderness Academy. It was a fantastic opportunity for our learners to explore their interests and make informed choices about their educational path.

Meanwhile, **Year 10** learners have begun their planning for work experience with great enthusiasm. They are eager to apply their skills in real-world settings and gain valuable insights into their chosen careers. It is inspiring to see them take this important step with such focus and dedication.

Our **Year 11** learners continue to demonstrate exceptional commitment as they work on their **Centre Assessed Exams (CAEs)**. Their focus and determination are truly commendable, and I have no doubt they will continue to excel as they prepare for their final exams.

We were excited to host a visit from **Kofi Smiles** from **Humberside BBC Radio**, who came in to interview learners who took part in the **Apprenticeship for All** initiative at the end of the previous term. This was a fantastic opportunity for our learners to share their experiences, and we are proud of the way they represented themselves and the academy during the interview.

Additionally, some of our learners participated in the annual **Consortium Learner Conference** held at the University of Hull. The event offered a focused and interactive day, themed this year around **aspiration**. It was an inspiring opportunity for our learners to engage with peers from other institutions and further explore the importance of setting high goals and striving to achieve them.

For **World Book Day**, we've had an exciting week filled with engaging activities to celebrate the joy of reading! During tutor time, students participated in The Masked Reader competition where they had to guess which staff member was hiding behind their favourite book. On Thursday, our students read sections of 'Lamb to the Slaughter' by Roald Dahl during each lesson, a twisted yet humorous story with a shocking twist. Additionally, in library lessons, students took on the challenge of completing a Library Escape Room, solving clues and puzzles to unlock the mystery.

On **Thursday, 6th March**, nine of our **Active Travel Ambassadors** from **Year 7 and Year 10** attended the **Active Modeshift Junction Campaign** at **Beverley County Hall** to pitch for funding. Held in the **County Chamber**, this event required learners to write and present a speech using microphones and presentation materials. We are delighted that they were successful in securing **£450** for future **Active Travel Campaigns**—a fantastic achievement, and we are very proud of them.

These experiences, along with the upcoming projects, serve as a testament to the vibrant and dynamic learning environment we strive to create here at Holderness Academy. As we continue through the term, I encourage all of our learners to continue aspiring to be their best selves, to remain resilient in the face of challenges, and to treat others with the respect and kindness that they have so clearly demonstrated while on their travels.

I look forward to the continued success of all our learners as they return to their studies with renewed enthusiasm and determination. Thank you for your continued support in helping us foster an environment where every learner can thrive and grow.

Some key dates detailed below:

Key Dates for Spring Term 2	
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Thursday 13 th March
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Thursday 3 rd April
Easter Holidays	Monday 7 th April - Monday 21 st April

Finally, today we say goodbye to our Year 8 Pastoral Manager, Miss Oliver, as she moves on to her next chapter. I am sure you will join us in wishing Miss Oliver all the best for the future. From Monday 10th March, please contact Mrs Painter for any Year 8 Pastoral matters.

With best wishes for the term ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Holder
Headteacher