



Message from Mr Maltby

13th January 2021

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to provide a further update regarding the current half term and in regards to our remote learning provision.

During the last lockdown, the Academy's planned Parents Evenings did not take place. The Academy will ensure that parents are provided with the opportunity to speak with their child's teachers during this current lockdown. However, adaptations will be made. On 26th January, Year 9 parents will be able to book appointments to speak online with their child's subject teachers between 12.30 - 3pm. The same approach will be applied for Year 11 parents on 4th February. Further information will follow regarding booking procedures and how IT will be utilised to support in these different circumstances. I will also provide additional guidance for any parent / carer who wants to receive this important feedback from their child's teacher but is unable to be online during this time slot. Despite the constraints, I will ensure all parents and carers get the feedback they need at this time.

Furthermore, the Academy will be delivering an Options Day on the 25th January in which parents and students will be provided with an overview of all subject options and how the options process will proceed during this term. It is vital that all Year 9 students and parents have all the information and guidance they need to make the right curriculum choices moving forward.

I want to thank parents and carers who have provided feedback on our remote learning provision. The email parents@holbrookacademy.org continues to be monitored daily and I intend to conduct a parent survey before half term to further capture your responses to our current provision. As I have mentioned previously, it is important that we have learnt important lessons from the last lockdown and adapted our resources to meet the needs of your child. I want to take this opportunity to thank all subject teachers who are working incredibly hard to provide both high quality learning online resources alongside the assessment for learning that each student needs.

I think it is important to clarify that the school is triangulating attendance with engagement and progress. The school will be concerned if students are registering for lessons but not returning work at the level we would expect of them. Likewise, the school is reassured if students do not register live for every lesson but are still handing in work of a high quality. We are in the process of diligently monitoring each student over time and we will be in contact if we have concerns about attendance, engagement or progress. It is important we continue to work collaboratively to minimise the impact that this lockdown will have on students' academic progress.

Finally, our increased usage of IT at this time brings with it its own specific risks. Attached to my communication today is an important document from our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Anstee-Parry, which outlines the further risks around e-safety and how these risks can be mitigated. This overview cross references the Academy's own safeguarding guidance, which has already been shared, alongside our updated behaviour policy on the school website. Do please take this opportunity to read Mr Anstee-Parry's guidance and to click on its confirmation link. It is important that we continue to do everything we can to keep our students as safe as possible at this time.

Tom Maltby
Headteacher