



Message from Mr Maltby

21st May 2021

Good morning

I am delighted to inform you that this week Mr Sansom has been appointed as Head of Performing Arts at Holbrook Academy; this is a new position that has been created to promote the arts across our school.

Our curriculum planning for 2021-22 will now also include dance in Year 7-9 as I literally want our students to dance again!

At a time when investment in Arts has been affected in schools across the nation, I want to re-assert my commitment to a rich and varied enrichment programme. I appointed the brilliant Miss Hutchison as Drama teacher last term (the school's first full time Drama teacher) and I have ring-fenced the money which would have been spent on a school production this year to enhancing a new Drama studio. We will also be creating a recording studio which will be completed over the Summer holidays.

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of watching our Year 11 Drama students perform their final pieces. I found the experience of watching live performance incredibly moving and it reminded me of why there is such a real need for theatre and music and dance to be shared within our community. I was so very impressed by the commitment and talent within our Year 11 Drama cohort and do hope they will return to perform for us at our Record of Achievement event in Autumn.

How an Academy spends its money and sets its curriculum defines its values; and being a Single Academy Trust provides additional freedom to allow this to happen. Alongside my commitment to the Arts, I have also invested significantly in IT this year and am currently working with Governors to renew our desktops in IT classrooms.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Governors for their vital support and contribution to this process of investment and curriculum planning. In particular I want to thank Louise Cullen for her incredible leadership as Chair of Governors. I also want to re-affirm her own message at the start of term that there is a constant need for new members to join our Governing body. As Head, I should always expect to feel slightly uncomfortable before attending a Governors meeting as no organisation can progress without an appropriate level of challenge and scrutiny. Holding myself, and the senior leadership team, to account as "critical friends" is an essential feature of an effective school and if you are able to support by putting yourself forward for this important role, do please contact Sarah Beazley on sarah.beazley@holbrookacademy.org for further details about becoming a Parent Governor.

I have an ambitious five year vision of where I want to take this great school and this includes being open and direct about where improvements are needed. For instance, your feedback to my request to support me with renewing our anti-bullying policy was invaluable and I will be presenting both the renewed policy and my intents in raising expectations over the coming weeks.

Every school needs to be in a constant state of renewal and I welcome any contribution you can make as we move forward together.

Have a good weekend.

Tom Maltby
Headteacher