



Message from Mr Maltby

24th September 2021

Good morning,

I am writing to parents and carers today to communicate my decision to advise our students to wear a face covering / mask in school corridors from Monday 27th September; unless they are exempt from doing so. They will not be advised to wear them at other times in the school day, unless they travel by bus, and I view this decision as an extra-cautionary response to a number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 since we began the new school term. This step is not being made in response to any external guidance but instead is a decision I have made with our Chair of Governors and aligns with decision-making in at least one other local secondary school. We will ensure students are provided with a face mask if they are unable to bring one to school on Monday and students will only be advised to wear one at this time. If your child is new to the school and you wish to inform us they are exempt, please contact us at parents@holbrookacademy.org

This is also a next step which aligns with my cautionary decision not to hold our big annual Open Evening event next week. Instead, we look forward to inviting small number of prospective parents onto site; ensuring that clear social distancing measures can be maintained throughout their time to further protect our students, staff and community.

As part of our open week we are ensuring that three of our wonderful students have an opportunity to speak formally with prospective parents and I attach to this weekly communication a copy of their speeches. I hope you agree with me that they really do reflect the very best of our school learning community.

I wish you all a good weekend,

Tom Maltby
Headteacher



Oliver - Year 11

What does it mean to be a part of Holbrook Academy?

Hello my name is Oliver and I am a Year 11 student at Holbrook Academy. My past five years at Holbrook have always been positive. Holbrook is a smaller school with a lovely community in which we all happily contribute to, therefore, when others need help everyone comes together to sort out the issue. I have been and will always be proud to attend Holbrook Academy, we pride ourselves with good grades and success rates but also with friendship.

Everyone knows everyone here at Holbrook, therefore, we all support each other, we all care for each other and no one feels judged. However it is not just your peers that will support you, the teachers will also. The teachers are very approachable and will find time in their busy days to talk to you. In lessons they will support you as well and make sure you are always getting the best out of your learning and that you are growing, not only in your education, but as a person. High school is about personal growth, therefore, you are able to be more independent before going off into the big wide world and although that may seem daunting the teachers won't stop supporting you.

COVID-19 was a hard year for us all. A lot of students felt as though we missed out on our learning. However, Holbrook supplied us with lots of different learning and supporting resources enabling us to stay on track of our grades. When returning to school, we maintained a positive outlook and realised that we all were still on track, if not exceeding our predicted grade. During the lockdown, there were regular video calls for extra support, not only for your work but also for your mental health. Holbrook Academy values mental health and takes it very seriously, supporting students when needed.

I recommend Holbrook Academy because it presents itself as diverse and inclusive and I can speak on behalf of all these students who would agree that it is. School should be a place of learning not a place where we judge people. Holbrook Academy is diverse and accepting and is a safe space for all.

Amy - Year 7

Hello my name is Amy, I started at Holbrook Academy just a few weeks ago. Holbrook is a welcoming place and there is always someone to help you.

Before I started, Mr Anstee-Parry came to visit me and my friends at our primary school and I really enjoyed coming to school over the summer to meet the other people in my form. We did a tour, some learning activities and played rounders which was really fun. I am enjoying my time at Holbrook and my favourite lessons are maths, science and food technology.

During transition to Holbrook, I chose some of my primary school friends to be in my class and this made settling in a whole lot easier, but I have also made lots of new friends which is very exciting.

The library here is so much bigger than at my primary school and I am enjoying borrowing lots of books and this makes my mum happy because I am actually reading more.

The teachers here are very helpful and nice and my new form teacher, Mr Edwards, is fun. I thought that high school would be a lot scarier because of all the big kids that are around but it is actually fun. I would recommend this school because the teachers are really helpful and learning is fun.