



Message from Mr Maltby

2nd September 2021

Good afternoon,

I would like to take this first opportunity to welcome back all the students, teachers and support staff at Holbrook Academy.

The Academy had a busy summer holiday which included:

- a virtual Summer School supported by the National Tutoring Project
- our Examination Results Day - do please see the website for an overview of these results compared to our last published results
- our Year 11 Prom - at which our Year 11 students were finally able to celebrate together the end of their time at Holbrook Academy (and it was really wonderful!)
- a week long Summer School which allowed all our new Year 7 students to spend a day on site to familiarise themselves with their new school, key members of staff and, of course, get to meet their new friends!
- the refurbishment of both of our IT classrooms; ensuring that we replaced all of the old desktops (of which there were over 60) with desktops that meet the new requirements for our technical age

I want to thank everyone who was involved in all of these developments and events over the Summer break.

I also want to begin with a number of important welcomes. Please see below all of our new teachers and support staff who will be joining us this term:

Mrs Sarah Watson – Assistant Headteacher / SENCo
Mrs Verity Bell – English teacher
Mr Darrell Tarbuck – Computer Science teacher
Ms Alison Taylor – Science teacher
Mrs Hilary Cook – MFL teacher

Mrs Ros Connolly – Teaching Assistant
Mr Kaselle Lee – Teaching Assistant
Mrs Joanne Street – Science Technician

You will notice that we are delighted to welcome Mrs Watson to our Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Watson will be working alongside Deputy Headteacher, Mr Anstee-Parry, in her important position of SENCo. It has always been crucial to me that the position of SENCo is within the senior leadership team and I am certain that both Mrs Watson's inclusive ethos and impressive experience will become an important feature of our learning community. Mrs Watson will also be writing to all parents / carers of SEND students to introduce herself to you this week.

We continue to be mindful of the context in which we return to school. There has been important information distributed ahead of the start of term on our arrangements for lateral flow tests; the first test will take place (for those students whose family have consented to this testing) ahead of all students being together in their classroom. Students will continue to sanitise their hands as they enter their classroom, we will continue to have enhanced cleaning around our school throughout the day and we will continue to ensure our classrooms are both well ventilated and comfortable learning environments to be in. I have made the decision not to hold school assemblies at this



time and these will continue to be virtual experiences within classrooms. For further information and a copy of our Risk Assessment and our Outbreak Management Plan, please see our school website.

I do also want to say something about being a good neighbour to our local community. I want to ensure we minimise parking in the very local vicinity and so I would like to encourage parents/carers to drop off their child at The Compasses car park, as we requested last academic year. Assistant Headteacher, Mr Hart, will be present in this car park from 8.10-8.20am and will then lead a "walking bus" to the school site; an initiative that many of our younger students enjoyed (as they can meet and walk to school with friends) and which helped us to reduce parking in the local area. Older students could also be dropped off at this point and make the short walk to the school themselves. The "walking bus" initiative will begin again on Monday morning. We will also continue to invite specific parents / carers to drop off and collect their child on school site based on both need and the availability of space at the start and end of the school need. Mr Anstee-Parry will be contacting these parents about this provision but please do email him directly if you wish to enquire about this support.

For students who travel to and from school by bus, they will be guided as to where they need to wait to board the bus at the end of the day and we continue to request they sit in their year group on boarding from tomorrow morning. We also request that students wear face masks for their journey (unless they are exempt from doing so).

The Academy will also be sending further information if you would like to ask your child to stay at school at the of the day as we begin our new Homework club. This club will begin next week and is the beginning of developing our extended school support and enrichment programme.

Finally, I am very much looking forward to greeting our students in person from tomorrow and to meeting with yourself at the earliest opportunity. I would like to remind that there are a series of Parent Information Evenings this half term. These are as follows:

Year 10	Thursday 9 th September, 6-7pm
Year 11	Thursday 16 th September, 6-7pm
Year 9	Thursday 23 rd September, 6-7pm
Year 8	Thursday 7 th October, 6-7pm
Year 7	Thursday 14 th October, 6-7pm

For each event we will be ensuring that seating is distanced, that the venue is well ventilated and we will be requesting that face masks are worn (although not mandatory). If this means further evenings will need to be scheduled to meet demand then we will, of course, do so to ensure that everyone who wants to do attend will be able to do so. Details on how to book a place for your child's year group will follow separately. Please also note that these information evenings are tailored to each specific year group so you may choose to attend a number of these events if you have children in more than one year group.

I do hope to be able to meet you in person in the very near future and, on a personal level, I very much look forward to serving the Academy in the new academic year ahead

Kind regards,

Tom Maltby
Headteacher