



Message from Mr Maltby

1st October 2021

Good morning,

This week has been our Open Week at Holbrook Academy; following our decision to welcome small group tours of the school rather than holding a big communal Open Evening event. This means we have had sixteen tours of the school this week - and each one has been an absolute delight! It has been lovely for prospective students and their parents to get a real feel for Holbrook during a "normal" school day. One parent, on completing the tour, responded that Holbrook was a "hidden gem" which was such lovely feedback to receive.

I continue to want to utilise this time of the year to connect with parents. Next week, as previously advised, we will be holding our first Year 8 Parent Information Evening. Due to the excellent response, we have arranged a second Year 8 Information Evening on Tuesday 12th October. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 8 student and would like to attend on the 12th October, please do sign up [here](#). One of our presentation points on these evenings will be the introduction of our GradU8 programme for Year 8 students. This programme intends to set personalised targets for all Year 8 students to achieve throughout the year and will culminate in a graduation event (with mortar boards!) at the end of the Summer Term. I'm keen to ensure that all Year 8 students maintain a sharp focus in their studies this year and that we continue to promote and celebrate important qualities like kindness, service and citizenship.

This week has also seen the release of further information regarding Year 11 examinations and Mr Hart will be writing to all Year 11 parents/carers today to provide an important overview. It is essential that we do all we can to guide, support and inspire our Year 11 students this academic year. I have been so impressed with how they have started their final year at Holbrook in such a calm and focused manner.

This week I appointed Mrs Bell as the Head of Life-skills and I know she will be fantastic in driving our personal development programme forward for all our students. I have asked her to prioritise a whole school focus on healthy lifestyles, healthy eating and healthy choices within our life-skills provision. Mrs Bell also leads our student environment group during Enrichment time - and they are currently promoting recycling within our school. This group will also be supporting my aspiration that Holbrook Academy both reduces and off-sets its carbon emissions after I commissioned an external analysis of carbon emissions at our school. Our students really do care about the environment and it is vital we show them we too share their concerns and a desire for a healthier planet.

Meanwhile, our student equality group are planning a range of activities in October to mark Black History Month. This year the theme is 'Proud To Me' which I think is a great concept to promote inclusion. It is important to me that we move beyond tolerance to a celebration of the rich and diverse heritages and identities within our learning community; every student should feel safe to be who they are at Holbrook.

Finally, I want to end my message this week by wishing the brilliant Mr Woods the very best in the London Marathon on Sunday; he is running for the St Elizabeth Hospice in Suffolk, a charity close to his heart. If you would like to support Mr Woods by making a donation for his run do please click on the following link <https://bit.ly/3mi2Gcj> _____

And if you're not running a marathon this weekend then I wish you a restful end to the week.

Thank you

Tom Maltby
Headteacher