

Message from Mr Maltby

16th December 2021



Good morning,

As we approach the end of term, I want to thank everyone in our school community for their incredible resilience, hard work and support.

Tomorrow, we will begin the day with awards being presented to students in all year groups for academic progress and effort. During our PD day on 4th January, we will be moderating assessments in Years 7-9, which includes cross-centre moderation with Debenham High School. It is vitally important that whilst maintaining a sharp eye on our GCSE cohort, we continue to ensure we are monitoring the academic progress of all students and intervening where necessary. Much of PD Day will, therefore, be focused on Key Stage 3 assessments and progress and the following week current grades for all students will be on Go4Schools.

Tomorrow will also be a non-uniform day for all our students as we continue to raise money to achieve our ambition of being a carbon-neutral school.

The end of term is a time for departures and I want to wish Mr Phil Hart the very best as he leaves our Academy to begin a new career pathway. Mr Hart has served our school through high points and some of its most challenging and difficult times. He is a popular member of staff who will be sorely missed by so many. Mr Hart has served Holbrook as both Assistant Head and Deputy Head and his contribution, therefore, has been significant. Thank you Phil for everything you have done to both lead and support the Academy over these years.

This is also an opportunity for me to welcome Mr Kerrick Newstead to the senior leadership team as he will be taking on Mr Hart's role as Raising Standards Lead. I am delighted with this new appointment and it is reassuring to know that this key role within our school will be in such safe hands. I also want to congratulate Miss Dack and Ms Rashid-de-la-Cruz who will share the responsibilities of Head of English through the remainder of this academic year; it is wonderful to see talent develop within our school community. I have also appointed a specialist Business teacher who will take Mr Hart's GCSE Business Studies class from January onward.

Finally, there will be a further overview for parents/carers regarding January's return to school before the end of term. The decision has been made to maintain our current control measures in the first days back after the holidays until on-site testing has been completed and we consult further with Public Health Suffolk. Of course, should national guidance change, we are in a position to rapidly revert to year group bubbles or remote learning and I will communicate with you directly during the school holidays should this be necessary.

I do recognise that whilst this has not been the end of term we wanted, the behaviour and the attitude of our students has been simply brilliant; it was particularly lovely to see them enjoying their Christmas dinner earlier this week! This is a school to be proud of and I want to wish everyone in our community a peaceful and joyful holiday.

Thank you.

Tom Maltby
Headteacher