



Summer School 2021

During the last week of the Summer holiday, the whole of the new Year 7 cohort were invited to participate in a day of getting to know each other, their form tutor, the school, the routines, and much more. This included working on their numeracy and literacy skills and having PE and drama lessons! Over 90% of the invited students attended, which was a fantastic outcome!

Each morning, a new group of students arrived having been dropped off by their parents and waved goodbye. They were soon put at ease by the warm welcomes provided by a range of staff who had offered their time to provide learning and mentoring.

Once settled, Mr Anstee-Parry led a Welcome to Holbrook message, taking time to explain to the students what they would be doing for the duration of the day. The students' programme included:

- Meet the Tutor – a chance for the children to meet the person who was to be their tutor for the year.
- Tour of the School – to help settle the children and to help ease fears they had about transition in general.
- English Lesson – a bespoke literacy lesson planned and delivered by specialist staff.
- Maths Lesson - a bespoke numeracy lesson planned and delivered by specialist staff.
- Drama - a bespoke drama lesson planned and delivered by specialist staff with a focus on getting to know each other and building friendships.
- PE – a chance to add some sporting competition to proceedings and, in addition, the chance to see Mr Anstee-Parry and Mr Hart lead softball teams in a battle of wills! Much fun was had by all and it was lovely to see children who had only just met, cheering each other on and joining in celebrating each other's successes.

In addition to the above, Mr Hart led a short entry and exit questionnaire, using the same questions at the beginning and the end of each day. Questions were based on how much they were looking forward to starting at Holbrook, how well prepared they felt, their sense of self in numeracy and literacy, friendship and readiness for life at secondary school. In every question, students left feeling more positive than they did at the beginning of the day.

The transition based summer school was such a success that the school would most certainly be looking at doing something like this again for following years.