

## Message from Mr Maltby

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Good afternoon,

The rhythms and routines of the school day help to stabilise our young people during difficult times.

I am a firm believer in the importance routine and how order can liberate.

On a personal level I experienced, as a school child, the loss of my older brother. I now use this childhood trauma to inform my decision making as Head. I understand the importance of maintaining school routines at a time when life outside of school can be far from normal. These routines are an essential feature of how we care for our young people at this time.

Last week, we sent a communication to all families about our school uniform and I want to thank you for your support; the impact has been swift and significant. Our school uniform is not an aside to our students' school experience but an important aspect of belonging to a single community and ensuring that school has its own clearly defined boundaries. I will continue to ensure that these expectations are addressed and managed.

I do also recognise just how difficult recent times have been for so many in our community and I continue to try to work collaboratively, as far as that is possible, for the good of all our students, staff and families.

On that note, we had a great remote parents evening for Year 9 last week and next week is Year 11. I also intend to do a live online forum with families of Year 11 students in early February, once we have further clarity about examinations and final assessments. As you would expect, Year 11 remains a sharp focus for us all at this time. I also intend to speak with every Year 9 student ahead of their option choices to ensure that they all have the support and information they need to make the right choices.

Our personal approach is an important feature of Holbrook Academy and we intend to maintain our routines, keep you informed and do all we can for the students in our care at this time

Have a good weekend,

Tom Maltby  
Headteacher