

Message from Mr Maltby

11th February 2022



Good afternoon,

During this week, there was a significant national announcement about Year 11 examinations. Mr Newstead has prepared an overview of these announcements alongside their impact on students at Holbrook. This overview will be presented to parents/carers and students alike by Mr Newstead in a live online forum on Tuesday evening at 6.15pm. This will also allow for a Q&A session. A link will be sent to all Year 11 Parents/Carers ahead of Tuesday and if you are unable to attend a copy of this overview will also be distributed.

It is vitally important that our Year 11 students are clear about expectations regarding the coming weeks and that they know how they can get the support they may need. We are also looking forward to holding our first Record of Achievement evening for Year 11 parents/carers and students - alongside, of course, the traditional Year 11 prom!

This week also included the national Safer Internet Day. I attach to my weekly email an overview of this important event from Mr Taylor; you will note from this overview that all students will be receiving a copy of the Digital Parenting e-safety booklet before the half-term holiday. Mr Taylor is new to our school community and is also doing a brilliant job re-introducing the Duke of Edinburgh Award to our students; something I have been keen to see return for some time.

This week, I agreed that Holbrook Academy should participate in a national initiative focusing on career opportunities in the maritime sector. This exciting initiative will provide opportunities for students to consider the extensive (and ambitious) range of careers that are available under this umbrella term whilst also ensuring that our curriculum reflects our local context. After the half-term break, I am going to attend a two day residential course to collaborate with other schools on this project and I will provide further information about this curriculum initiative on my return.

I am also keen to extend the sense of challenge in our curriculum at Key Stage 3 students and so will be introducing a new "ad infinitum, et ultra" group, which will be led by Mr Newstead, designed to ensure that students are provided with additional stretch and challenge experiences; including the opportunity to visit a university before they choose their options. There is nothing wrong with a student deciding not to go to university but there is everything wrong in a student believing that university is not for them. I want all the students in our school to think of their future lives without limits and to be fully prepared for the workplaces they will soon be entering.

On this note, I do want to say a particular thank you to our careers team for establishing so many work experience placements for our current Year 10 students

Finally, I would like to congratulate Year 8 student, Bethan, who, since the launch of Accelerated Reader in March 2021, has recorded a massive 3,283,102 million words read. She has also completed - and passed - 35 quizzes, more than any other student. Due to her efforts, not only has she achieved the Bronze, Silver and Gold stars, she is also the first student to have been awarded the Holbrook Academy Super Star Reader award.

I wish you all a very good weekend

Tom Maltby
Headteacher