

Message from Mr Maltby

16th February 2022



Good afternoon,

Yesterday, Holbrook Academy Trust held its Annual General Meeting. A highlight of this important meeting was the contribution made by our Head Prefects which I have decided to share with you below:

"Although the passing of Dr Letman was sad for us all, Holbrook still had a great community spirit which has stuck throughout. With the arrival of Mr Maltby came new ideas and changes for the better. Joining in Year 7, J and I had always aspired to becoming Head Prefects. Now, having been in this position for a few months, we have been given an insight into being a representative for the school. Working closely with Mr Maltby, we are now able to express the students' opinions and ideas, enabling him to implement our suggestions. Many students have said that because of this, they feel listened to and respected. As a result of this, the school is able to run smoother with less distractions (especially in GCSE years)."

"The school has become more inclusive nowadays, pleasing many students. For example, the introduction of Head Prefect instead of the old fashioned Head Boy and Girl. The uniform nowadays is much more respected and worn with pride, whereas in previous years this wasn't the case, with uniform rules regularly being twisted by many students. Even though the last few years have been majorly disrupted, our five years at Holbrook have been memorable and enjoyable and we feel as though we have been a small part in major changes for future pupils of Holbrook Academy."

The voice of all our students is crucially important to me. I was also able, last night, to present the outcome of our recent anti-bullying survey. This survey has now been conducted three times since I became Head and is always compiled confidentially by all students in the same classroom conditions. The outcome of this survey showed that the percentage of students who feel they are being bullied has fallen from 7% to 3% to its current level of 1%. Now, of course, any incident of bullying is a serious concern. However, the feedback from student voice shows a significant impact of the work we have been doing together in these past two terms. I will continue to listen to our students and adapt our practice to meet their needs. I also remain committed to restorative approaches being an important aspect of how we respond to unkind or unacceptable behaviour between students.

Finally, our end of half term tomorrow will also be non-uniform day for our Year 11 students. This is a traditional privilege for Year 11 students who quite rightly receive an additional reward for all their hard work in this their final full term at Holbrook. I also want to thank Mr Newstead for presenting to Year 11 parents/carers and students last night; and we will continue to update you on our strategic response to significant national developments.

We are so proud of our Year 11 students and we will be there to support them throughout the coming weeks.

I wish you all a safe a restful half term break.

Tom Maltby
Headteacher