

## Message from Mr Newstead

18<sup>th</sup> March 2022



Good afternoon,

Two weeks ago, I was invited to tour a truly exceptional school in Cowes, on the Isle of Wight. Mr Maltby asked me to write to you today to share some of my experiences during this visit, and some thoughts on our vision of Holbrook as a maritime school.

In many ways, Cowes Enterprise College will sound familiar. The island is stunning, with both the land and the waters designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In and around Cowes, international and local business thrives - the majority of which is linked to maritime industries.

As a peninsula school, we too feel the tidal pull of the sea: Felixstowe is Britain's largest container port, for example. Closer to home, bespoke and luxury superyachts are designed and built by local shipwrights. Where heavy industry in the centre of Ipswich has dwindled, our maritime sector goes from strength to strength.

Our children also study on the border of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

My visit to Cowes is the start of a programme entitled 'Maritime Futures.' Over the coming years, we are going to be contextualising relevant parts of our curriculum, some of our careers work and the extra-curricular experiences we offer to students. This does not mean that we change what we teach, or that we are expecting more children to take on jobs in marine engineering, the merchant navy or similar career paths.

It means that we are embracing where we are, and making it part of who we are. A beautiful example of this is the Sailing to Success strategy, introduced by Miss Dack and featuring artwork by Mr Holmes and Ms Burdett. I have attached a copy of this resource, which we use across the school for checking and improving written work.

I observed lessons in Cowes with local marine archaeologists offering their expertise, with local artists in residence: where the skills that they were learning in school were demonstrated directly by people that use them every day in successful businesses.

Our purpose here is simple: Holbrook is a special place because of where it is. We want to work more closely with our local community, businesses and environment so that our students understand the world around them more fully, and to help them develop skills they need to find themselves in their element later on in life.

Kerrick Newstead  
Assistant Headteacher



## IPSWICH



1.  
Raise Anchor  
Do you have your red pen  
ready to check, correct and  
progress?



2.  
Launch your Craft  
Have you used capital letters and  
punctuation where required?



3.  
Set Course  
Are you ready to check your  
spelling?  
Dictionary needed!



4.  
Raise the Sails  
Can you think of ways to improve  
your vocabulary?

5.  
Tighten the Lines  
Could you develop any of your  
ideas?



6.  
Trim the Sails  
Have you used paragraphs  
consistently throughout?  
Remember: ToP TiP



## FELIXSTOWE

