

## Message from Mr Maltby

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022



Good morning,

On Monday, I will be presenting a report to the local Parish Council reflecting Holbrook's year and I have decided to share my words more widely, as we begin to now approach the end of term.

I do want to remind Year 11 students and their parents/carers that we have a virtual event next Tuesday during which Mr Newstead will outline our timeline and our support for this cohort as they approach the end of their time at our school.

The term will end with a second non-uniform day and the monies raised will be shared, once again, between Comic Relief and to support with the current Ukrainian refugee crisis.

We will continue to be a community school with a social conscience and I hope this commitment is reflected in my words below.

*Holbrook Academy began the new academic year returning to school life without zones. The routines and rituals of school life provided students with a sense of security and reassurance during challenging times for all. I do believe that we, as a wider community, have a shared responsibility to provide our next generation with a sense of responsibility, citizenship and, above all, hope.*

*The changes to school life also enabled us to invite parents and carers back onto the school site and, in response, we held a series of highly successful Parent Information Evenings in the Autumn Term. It was wonderful to welcome back parents and carers and to have this opportunity to articulate our progression and vision for Holbrook Academy. We were also able to invite prospective parents onto the school site in a series of Open Day events. Our visitors were able to see for themselves our school on a 'normal day' and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic; we now look forward to welcoming a full cohort of Year 7 students in September 2022.*

*The Academy has also focused on closing gaps in student learning. We have invested in Accelerated Reader to improve reading ages in the lower year groups alongside the National Tutoring Programme to support students across all year groups. We have also made significant investment in laptops and Chrome books and replaced every desktop computer in all our IT classrooms to ensure that our resources meet the needs of our student; who are themselves increasingly skilled in the use of information technology.*

*We intend to enhance our curriculum to reflect our local context by participating in a DfE funded project to develop a maritime curriculum. We also look forward to enhancing our school facilities with a new Science laboratory and an inclusive support centre. We intend to share our additional Science laboratory with local feeder schools so they can get to experience practical Science lessons in a school laboratory before they begin secondary school. These building developments will be completed by September 2022.*



*The Academy is also working closely with Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council to explore how we can further extend sharing our sport's facilities with the local community. At present, Holbrook Academy facilitates a range of community events such as self-defence classes, Badminton group, junior tennis group alongside providing our playing fields for Holbrook Hornets for football practice and holding fixtures. These community events are managed on a cost neutral basis.*

*As Headteacher, I have always been keen to engage with our local community in an open and constructive manner and I want our students to contribute. In this past year, we have collected food parcels for a local foodbank, promoted service to others through our GradU8 programme, re-established the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a number of our students have been volunteering to clear up litter in The Cut adjoining our school. Our Student Council have also created the following five characteristics which we now promote across our Academy; determination, kindness, confidence, tolerance and resilience. We are proud of our students, their characteristics and optimistic about their future within our shared community.'*

I wish you all a safe and restful weekend

Tom Maltby  
Headteacher