

# Academy News

11th November 2022



Good afternoon

This morning, Holbrook Academy fell silent at 11am to remember the fallen. We also had a special assembly of remembrance, rested poppies at our school memorial point and supported the Parish Council remembrance service with student musicians playing the last post. Armistice Day will always be an important moment in our school calendar.

On Monday, we will be holding our teen clothes swap for students and if parents/carers would be able to attend to support over lunchtime they would be very welcome to arrive at our school reception for 12.15pm on Monday. I would also like to thank those parents who attended the Friends of Holbrook meeting on Monday (a small but merry band!)

Next Friday it is Children In Need and I've always believed in the incredible work that this charity supports. I would, therefore, like next Friday to be a non-uniform day to support Children In Need; encouraging students to wear yellow - although this is not mandatory! On this theme, I do want to thank all those who continue to donate to our Just Giving page - which has raised £700 in the past few weeks since its launch. This money will be used with care and diligence to provide support for students within our school community

On a strategic level, I was delighted to receive a recent commendation from the local authority regarding our provision to prepare students for post-16 education or training; which included a recognition of the very low number of students who now leave Holbrook not in education, employment or training (NEET). We have recently completed our October student census and our number on roll (NOR) was at the highest level for over ten years. We have also updated our school evaluation form (SEF) and I wanted to share with you our most recent progress measures to demonstrate positive impact alongside our whole school priorities, which I have called The Holbrook Essentials; these have been established in response to concerns about progress from a range of feedback, including our parental survey.

- The % of students who achieved 5+ in English and maths has increased from 35% in 2019 to 47%.
- The number of students following the Ebacc pathway has increased from 14% in 20/21 to 39% as a result of a new Options Pathway.
- In our parent survey, a significant majority of parents/carers believe that their child feels happy and safe at school (the later being over 90% when omitting Don't Know).
- In the parent survey January 2021, 68% of parents/carers ranked our remote learning as Good / Excellent whilst over 90% believed it was satisfactory or better. 80% of parents/carers believed our lockdown provision improved from the first lockdown (only 5% responded that they felt there had been no improvement).
- Safeguarding is robust, an auditor noted in October 2021, *"having met and trained DSLs across the Suffolk County, that the arrangements for safeguarding at Holbrook Academy are in many cases impressive"*.
- Staff confidence in safeguarding procedures is high; staff say that they have full understanding of how to record concerns (100% in Staff Survey September 2022).
- PASS survey showed that overall there is a significant high satisfaction amongst student body and no themes were judged to be low moderate or low satisfaction (7 of the 9 PASS factors were in the highest satisfaction percentile which is an improvement of 6/9 in 2021).
- The % of students who stated they feel they are currently being bullied has reduced from 7% (Autumn 2020) to 2% (Summer 2022).
- The Student Success Centre shows significant impact on targeted interventions across all year groups.

Continued ....

## Calendar / Upcoming Events

14th November - Clothes Swap afternoon

17th November - GCSE Presentation Evening

18th November - Civvies Day for Children in Need

21st November - Year 9 HPV vaccinations (*details will be sent to parents/carers separately*)

w/c 28th November - Year 11 Mock Exams start (see [Timetable](#))

- Introduction of the GradU8 programme in Year 8 to promote engagement; evidence of impact in recent PASS survey. Holbrook characteristics are a continual reference point in assemblies / pastoral work.
- Introduction of Mindfulness Mondays to support student wellbeing.
- A popular school for students with EHCPs (3.6% with an Education Health and Care Plan in 2021 compared to 2.2% nationally).
- The Academy's developing involvement in Maritime Future's project to ensure curriculum reflects local context.
- Restorative Approach staff training completed and having positive impact on promoting sustainable resolution.
- New building developments completed to support teaching of Science, SEN support and our Inclusion Hub to support mental wellbeing.

Our whole school priorities: "The Holbrook Essentials"

- To ensure that every classroom allows every student excel; including the right level of challenge
- To effectively deploy targeted intervention and support; including delivery of Disadvantaged action plan
- To strengthen collaboration as an outward facing Academy.
- To maintain and promote Holbrook's personalised approach
- To ensure effective value for money during a time of significant financial constraint

There is still much work to be done but it is important we can also acknowledge where progress is being made.

I wish you all a very good weekend.

Tom Maltby  
Headteacher

### Reminder

Students should not have long painted nails, acrylic or otherwise, in school, as per the Rewards & Behaviour policy.



**This May Help** is a website that has been created to support parents and carers with concerns about their child's mental health.

The subjects covered on this website have been chosen by families and young people who have gone through their own mental health challenges. What helped them may also help you.

There are six films which offer advice across the main subject areas, with ten additional films offering supporting information. The films can be viewed in any order at any time.

The advice covered on the website includes: self-harm, gaming and online activity, teenagers safety, eating disorders, school avoidance, understanding mental health, understanding teenagers, online threats, building rapport, building resilience, building a support network, self-care tips, managing an emergency, managing in a crisis, and preparing for a children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) appointment.

### Useful Information

Links to support services

**Suffolk County Council** - [The Parent Hub](#)

**Childline:** 0800 1111

**Online bullying:** [thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://thinkyouknow.co.uk)

**Feeling down, low or depressed:**

[youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk) or [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org) Call 116 123 for free

**Sexual Assault:** Call NSPCC 0800 136 663 or [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

### Safeguarding Information

During school hours, please contact Mr Anstee-Parry (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Watson (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) - 01473 328317

At all other times, please contact Customer First : 0808 800 4005 or

If you believe there is an emergency and a child is at risk of **immediate harm** please call the Police on **999**.



# Current PE Clubs - Autumn Term 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	<p>Netball Sportshall Yr 7 &amp; 8 (Girls)</p> <p>Fitness gym Yr 9/10/11 (PE kit req)</p>	<p>Basketball Sportshall Yr 7</p>	<p>Badminton Sportshall Yr 7</p> <p>Fitness gym Yr 9/10/11 (PE kit req)</p>	<p>Badminton Sportshall Yr 8 &amp; 9</p> <p>GCSE PE Revision Room 19 (Week 1 only)</p>	<p>Badminton Sportshall Yr 10 &amp; 11</p>
After School 3.15-4.30pm	<p>Fixtures</p>	<p>Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Netball Sportshall Yr 7-11 (Girls) (Please check the notice board each week to confirm it is on)</p> <p>Fixtures</p>	<p>Fixtures</p>	<p>House Events</p>

Due to it getting dark earlier and the increased number of fixtures/matches this half term we have had to reduce the after school clubs. For lunch time clubs, you do not need your PE kit, just some trainers to wear (except for the fitness gym – you need full PE kit). Any questions please see a member of the PE department.