



# Academy News

9th December 2022



Good afternoon,

Yesterday evening we had our Year 9 Parents' Information Evening and I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr Newstead for his brilliant presentation on the Year 9 Options process.

One important development on this theme is the percentage of students who are now choosing to take the more academic EBacc pathway. Two years ago, this cohort was at 14%, which was one of the lowest in Suffolk, and it is now currently at 39% ,which shows a significant increase in a short period of time. I believe this is an important step forward for our Academy.

I mentioned last week that Mr Anstee-Parry had invited an external audit of behaviour onto our school site; which also included a parental survey. We will use feedback to inform priorities and this will be presented in the form of a clear action plan at the start of the new year. It is important we address any disruptive or harmful behaviour within the framework of robust policies which reflect our priorities, high expectations and values as a school community.

I would like to add that a key theme from the parent survey was behaviour on the buses and I do want to assure you that, as Head, I will act decisively when responding to anti-social behaviour on our school buses to ensure all students feel safe when they travel to and from school. Our action plan will include further responsive measures to improve behaviour on our buses in response to some of your recent concerns.

It is also important to recognise, and celebrate, the fantastic behaviour and effort that the overwhelming majority of our students bring to our school every day. To do so, we have planned next week to be a 'recognition week' which will include celebration assemblies for each year group, movie afternoons for select students alongside a Golden Ticket event for those who have accumulated a large number of positive points and avoided the negatives. Such rewards and recognitions are a vital feature of our Rewards and Behaviour policy and we look forward to these celebrations next week.

On this theme, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Eva who recently sang several songs at a fundraiser at St Elizabeth Hospice;. Holbrook Academy is very proud of her - as we are of Alexis in Year 7 for her wonderful sporting achievement! My apologies to Alexis for my mistake last week!

Finally, I look forward to our students attending St Mary's Care Home next week where they will be performing a selection of Christmas carols and songs for the patients of the dementia ward. This is a lovely way for our students to support our community at this time of the year.

I wish you all a good weekend.

Tom Maltby  
Headteacher

## Calendar / Upcoming Events

13th December - Christmas Dinner + Christmas Jumper Day

16th December - Last day of term

4th January - students return to school (Week 1)

12th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening



*On Tuesday 13th December, students may wear a Christmas or festive jumper **with** their Academy uniform.*



### **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**.

### **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)