

# Academy News

27th January 2023



Good afternoon,

This week we had a very successful Year 9 Parents' Evening on school site. It was a helpful reminder of the importance of connecting in person and I was delighted to be able to welcome parents and carers onto school site to speak directly with their subject teachers. I would also like to reiterate that I would be happy to meet with any parent / carer at the Academy if I can support with any questions or concerns.

The next step for Year 9 students will be choosing their GCSE options. I am proud of the breadth of the options we have in place at Holbrook. I am also pleased that the number of students who are steering their choices toward the academic EBacc pathway is increasing. When I arrived at the school the % of students taking EBacc was 14% and it is now 39%; showing a significant movement toward academic subjects whilst retaining an essential "comprehensive education" which includes the arts, PE and other practical subjects.

I also had a very constructive meeting this week with Mrs Bell, who leads on Life-skills and Mrs Mulvihill our Food Technology teacher. The focus of our meeting was on healthy eating in our Academy. We discussed how making healthy food choices is covered across the curriculum and what more can be done to promote a healthy lifestyle. I have also had further meetings with our food provider, Caterlink, and our student council on this matter. I do want to take this opportunity to reiterate that our current allocation for Free School Meals does allow students to have both a meal and drink at lunchtime; and this can be a "sit down meal". There is always a warm space for all students to eat during the winter months. I have also ensured we move away from "cones" of water to cups in the canteen to ensure students can drink at the table if they choose to and do not need, at any stage, to pay for water unless they choose to pay for flavoured water. I also want to add that if students who are entitled to Free School Meals want to also purchase breakfast in the morning, then they just need to let Caterlink staff know the day before and we will ensure additional money is provided to allow this to happen. It is important we work together to monitor our food service and our curriculum on healthy food eating. If you would like to contribute to this consultation I would very much welcome your feedback and please respond on the following email [tom.maltby@holbrookacademy.org](mailto:tom.maltby@holbrookacademy.org)

Thank you for your support and I wish you all a very good weekend,

Tom Maltby  
Headteacher

## 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)