

Academy News

29th September 2023



Good afternoon,

I am writing to introduce you to some new members of the teaching team here at Holbrook, and to reiterate our commitment to ensuring that GCSE subjects are delivered by specialist practitioners - no matter how difficult this may prove in the current climate.

As you may be aware, Ms Evans sadly had to take some time away from teaching BTEC Health and Social Care this year. We are now pleased to welcome Ms Betts to our school, who has met all her classes over the last two weeks and will be taking these lessons from now on. Mrs Chapman (previously Miss Cocker) will continue to oversee the assessment calendar and moderation of this subject, a role that she has been involved with for several years already.

As Mr Sansom's new role takes him away from some classes, we are still looking for the right person to take on his teaching in the music department. He remains highly involved in the preparation of work for these classes, and the direct teaching of our highly successful GCSE classes.

In Business, we have a temporary vacancy while Mr Chiwira is away on professional development this half term - a specialist is booked in to visit the school next week, and I hope they will be able to help our students through this short interval. Mr Chiwira continues to set work via Google Classroom, is contactable, and supported by Mr Clarke who has many years experience teaching Business should students need an expert answer to their questions. Mr Chiwira will return to the Academy after half term.

From next week, all GCSE English classes affected by Mrs East's absence will have been reallocated to other members of the English team. There are three KS4 lessons (ie three hours of teaching) where this is not possible, and Head of English, Ms Chitty, will be working with me to ensure that the standard in those lessons remains high.

In Science, Mr Opefi completes the team, offering extensive experience in Biology and Chemistry. His appointment follows a series of interim staff that have supported learning since Mrs Cooke's departure, and I know our students will be pleased to now have the consistency of a regular teacher.

Thank you for your patience and support whilst we hunted for the right people to fill these roles - it's truly wonderful to be returning to a full staffroom again, and I look forward to introducing our new colleagues to the wider Holbrook community at parent events later in the year.

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

Break and Lunchtime Provision

Thank you to everyone who responded to the request for feedback on the Caterlink provision at break and lunchtimes.

We are working closely with Caterlink to address some of the concerns raised. New menus will be available on the website from next week.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

2nd/3rd October - Open Morning

3rd October - Open Evening

12th October - Careers Fair at Ipswich High School, 5-6pm

16th October - Flu Vaccinations
(Details to follow)

20th October - PD Day

23rd-27th October - Half-term



Please remember to log in to your child's Class Charts account using the code provided in the email from Mrs Beazley on 22nd September. Any queries, please contact the main office.

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

Safeguarding Information

During school hours, please contact Mrs Watson (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Miss Crabtree (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:-

Childline: 0800 1111

[The Wellbeing Hub 'Teen Tips'](#) Log in information was provided to parents/carers on 26th May. Please contact the office if you would like the information sent to you directly.

Online bullying www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Kooth - Online counselling service and peer to peer support for young people aged 11-25: www.kooth.com

Emotional Wellbeing Gateway website (Suffolk Infolink Directory) – Information, advice and guidance on common mental health issues. Access to mental health services like the Emotional Wellbeing Hub
www.emotionalwellbeinggateway.org.uk

The Source website for young people – Sources of information and advice important to young people in Suffolk, including emotional wellbeing support: www.thesource.me.uk/wellbeing

Mental Health Crisis – Call 111, option 2

Sexual Assault: Call NSPCC 0800 136 663 or help@nspcc.org.uk