

Academy News

17th November 2023



Good afternoon,

Words will never really capture our experience with **Destiny Africa** - maybe they're not supposed to. Some things don't quite fit into English (or Lugandan or Swahili) that express the warmth and compassion we have experienced this week. I am eternally grateful to the children of the choir (Patricia, Samantha, Gracie and Danielle) and their adults (Herbert, David, Caleb, Monica and Elizabeth) for their boundless energy and kindness. I am grateful to the wonderful staff who have welcomed the choir into their homes and the pupils and staff who stayed late into the night to support the concerts.

So far, we have raised nearly £2,000 but equally importantly we have gained sponsors for 3 of the 4 children who have toured this year. We would all be so pleased if all children could be sponsored through their education at Kampala Children Centre. If you are interested, please do make contact with me.

I am pleased to share with you that the choir will be returning in May 2024 for a longer stay. We have already started to discuss a trip to Uganda in 2025 and how we can deepen our relationship.

Herbert Mashami - "On behalf of Destiny Africa, I am eternally grateful for the love, support and overwhelming hospitality we have received here at Holbrook Academy.

Thanks to Mr Frank Anstee-Parry, you brought laughter, and contagious happiness to the entire team. You became an uncle and a daddy to these kids.

Thanks to the amazing Holbrook Academy students, who received us like their own, the staff that welcomed us during the lessons, and thanks to those that hosted us in their homes, we felt like part of a bigger family. We are grateful for the donated items we received from parents, teachers and student body. Holbrook Academy, thanks for giving the Best to the Least. Looking forward to seeing you all in May 2024."

You may have noticed we now have an Instagram account [@holbrookacademyofficial](https://www.instagram.com/holbrookacademyofficial) which will share updates and successes throughout the year.

Have a restful weekend,

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

Headteacher Interviews

Further to my letter of 17th October, I can now confirm that interviews for the permanent Headteacher position are to be held on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd November.

Governors, Staff and Students will be involved in this important process and we will provide an update once it is concluded. Please do discuss this with your child as students will have the opportunity to provide feedback to us.

Thank you.

Helen Butler - Chair of Governors

Calendar / Upcoming Events

22nd/23rd November -
Headteacher Interviews

28th November - GCSE
Presentation Evening 2023

6th December - Year 9 Options
Information Evening (*details to follow*)

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