

Academy News

15th March 2024



Dear Parents / Carers,

This week, we have had some great moments. On Tuesday, Holbrook Academy's Under 13 Football team made it through to the National Final after beating St James School of Staines.

On the victory, Holbrook Captain Fin said, "I feel we played as a team and we deserved to win; I'm excited to play in the final and my team just need to stay calm and we have already achieved something great", "I'm proud and honoured to represent my school and my peers".

So far, Holbrook have beaten teams across the country in a resounding fashion. The team are still waiting to find out where, when and who they will be facing but last year's final was held at the Hawthorns, West Bromwich Albion's ground, in May.

It has also been quieter this week whilst the Year 10 students have been out on work experience. We hope the students have gained valuable skills and experiences that will guide them in future choices for their chosen career path.

We saw an increase from last year in the number of students out in placements which is a great achievement considering the changing of the working landscape since the pandemic. We received many positive comments and feedback from their employers which I will share with you below. This just leads me to say a huge congratulations to the students and the week

"She is punctual, polite, and versatile, you certainly have a fantastic student"

"We have been delighted to host _____ here at Birketts for her Year 10 work experience. _____ has had the opportunity to have time working with a range of legal teams, including real estate, private client, and employment as well as business services, whilst discovering the various routes into a career in law"

It was a real pleasure working with _____ today, she was brilliant! We set ourselves lots to do and managed to get all of it done!

_____ has been an absolute pleasure to have as part of our team at Crown Pools, he settled in quickly and approached all tasks with confidence and enthusiasm, he has the ability to follow instructions independently and has great communication with colleagues and customers,

Attendance

Attendance has fallen slightly this term. You may have seen articles online and in the news about school attendance and how it has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. It is hard to put a cost on the impact of low attendance on the future life chances on young people. Research suggests that 17 days missed from school equates to dropping a FULL GCSE GRADE across all subjects. We do not expect a young person to come to school if they are genuinely ill but learning to manage a normal day at school whilst not feeling 100% is an important learning experience to help them to develop their resilience tool kit for their future life at college and at work.

Continued overleaf

Calendar / Upcoming Events

19th March - Year 10 Parents' Evening

28th March - End of Spring term

15th April - Students return (Week 2)

23rd April - Year 8 Parents' Evening (Details to follow)

Next term, we will be running a 30 day challenge and an inter-form competition again to support students with their attendance. Please encourage your child/ren with their attendance at school. Further details on how to support your child/ren and guidance from the NHS can be found below.

Looking ahead, numbers in Year 7 for next year are very strong with all places allocated and even a long waiting list.

In order to capture your views, if you have not yet done so, can you please take a moment to complete the [Ofsted Parent View](#)

Thank you and I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

PE Department News

In addition to the success of the Year 8 boys Football team, the Year 8 boys Dodgeball team recently completed in a tournament. They did amazingly well, winning all of their games, coming first overall. They have now qualified for the National finals.

Year 8 girls took part in an indoor Cricket tournament recently and also did really well, losing by just one run in the final, meaning they ended up second overall.

Improving School Attendance

Please follow the links for information on the importance of school attendance:-

[How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support](#)

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Safeguarding Information

During school hours, please contact Miss Crabtree (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) or ask to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team - 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