

# Academy News

19th April 2024



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we embark on the Summer term at Holbrook Academy, we fondly remember Dr Simon Letman, who sadly passed away in April 2019. In our assemblies on Monday, I spoke of Dr Letman who was not only a dedicated educator but also a cherished member of our school community. His passion for teaching and commitment to our students left an indelible mark on the Holbrook family. We honour his memory and continue to be inspired by his legacy as we strive for excellence in education.

We are pleased to announce that students who achieved the Spring Term Gold Standard Award are enjoying their reward trips to Thorpe Park this week and next. These outings promise fun-filled days of adventure and excitement, offering students a chance to unwind and create lasting memories with their friends. The Academy received a large influx of communication from parents/carers who were unable to acquire a place for their child on these excursions to Thorpe Park, of which some emails may still be awaiting an answer. However, Mr Sansom and the team will endeavour to ensure that all students who have qualified for a reward for their outstanding behaviour last term, will receive a reward and be celebrated for their achievements.

On the subject of behaviour, Mr Sansom has emailed all of the Academy's students this week requesting their feedback and views on the Academy's behaviour across this academic year through the use of a '*Pupil Behaviour Survey*'. This is a really good opportunity for your child to share their views on the behaviour around the Academy in general and provide any feedback they may have on how or where they would like to see improvements. Please could you encourage your child to complete the Google form found within Mr Sansom's email with as much detail as they can manage.

Year 8 Progress Evening - Tuesday 23rd April. Appointments opened last night and will close at 10am on Tuesday. Full details were shared with parents/carers earlier this week.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

George Anstee-Parry  
Acting Headteacher

## Calendar / Upcoming Events

23rd April - Year 8 Parents' Evening

24th April - Year 7, 8 Rewards Trip

6th May - Bank Holiday

7th May - Start of GCSE exams

## Reminder about Parking and Drop off / Pick Up

We have been asked by the local Parish Council to remind parents/carers that if you are using the roads around the Academy to drop off or pick up your child, you are considerate of our neighbours and the community. Please do consider the impact of cars parking in the local area on residents and, if you are waiting to pick up, please remember to turn off your engine.

A reminder for those not already aware that parking restrictions are in place between **8.00-8.30am and 3.00-3.45pm** to facilitate the movement of the school buses. During these times, only parents/carers who have a car parking pass will be able to come into the car park to drop off and pick up their children. If you try to come onto site without a pass you may be turned away.

An additional reminder that parents/carers should only come onto site outside of these times if you have an appointment or need to speak to someone in the office and not to drop students off as the car park is used by students throughout the school day.

Thank you.

## Social Media and Internet Safety

The world of the internet is forever changing and it can be hard to keep up. Young people often are the first to use new platforms and we as adults are often playing catch up. The key things to remember when looking at ways to keep your children safe online are:

- Recognising, managing and mitigating against risk - think - it could be happening to your child
- Who and where to turn for help

The 4C's is an easy way of remember what we need to be looking out for:

### Content

- What is or is not appropriate - age, maturity etc
- Easy to access most of the time
- Why no age restrictions in place - companies don't have to
- Easy for young people to be exposed to inappropriate content such as hateful and violent comments and misinformation and disinformation
- This can give skewed beliefs, body image issues and attitudes to relationships

### Conduct

Young person is the actor and this depends on how they play and how they behave. Risks

- Illegal downloads
- What are they doing or sharing on social media - e.g. Personal problems
- Bullying or targeting people
- Peer pressure, self harm

### Contact

- Young person is the participant
- Who are they speaking to?
- Who is contacting them and why?
- Companies harvest personal information for advertising and targeting
- Could being bullied online be overtaking being bullied in person?

### Commerce

Risks such as:

- Online gambling
- Inappropriate advertising
- Phishing
- Financial scams and getting bigger each year
- Identity theft - fasted growing crime world wide
- Rife on social media and gaming scams

The current 3 main online activities children access are:

- Gaming
- YouTube
- Social Media

There is a new Online Safety Bill. Social media companies are changing things such as default settings to private but it will take a long time to have full impact.

As parents, it is still vitally important you are aware of what the online activities your child takes part in and that its age appropriate.

Here are some other issues to consider:

- Online disinhibition - what we do online can be different from what we would do in the physical world
- A lack of restraint or poor risk assessment on the part of young people. Either not truly recognising the risk or poor risk management
- Not thinking before they post
- Young people may post their innermost thoughts and feelings when they would not in the physical world
- When online and behind the screen we do not have the same cues that would restrain our behaviours in the physical world.

Where to get help:

- ⇒ [CEOP](#)- reporting Portal
- ⇒ [Child Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF)
- ⇒ [Childline](#) - which offers a new service where you can report unwanted images and have them removed from the internet
- ⇒ Staff at school

### 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 Mrs Sarah Watson (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or 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/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)

**Kooth** - Online counselling service and peer to peer support for young people aged 11-25: [www.kooth.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.thesource.me.uk/wellbeing)

**Mental Health Crisis** – Call 111, option 2

**Sexual Assault:** Call NSPCC 0800 136 663 or [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)