

Academy News

10th May 2024



Dear Parents / Carers,

As exam season reaches its peak, the dedication and hard work of Year 11 students are commendable. With a focus on revising, practicing past papers, and seeking additional support where needed, they are demonstrating resilience and determination in pursuit of their academic goals. The culmination of their efforts during this critical period will not only reflect their individual academic achievements but also serve as a testament to their commitment to excellence.

This week, I have been in contact with Destiny Africa and they will be returning to the UK in the Autumn, not this month as previously planned.

Next week's assemblies have a focus on **British Values**. British Values encompass a set of fundamental principles that promote the development of a cohesive and inclusive society. These values include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In the context of education, instilling British values means fostering an environment where children learn to respect diverse perspectives, engage in democratic processes, understand the importance of laws, and exercise their freedoms responsibly. It also involves promoting equality and understanding among students of varying backgrounds, cultures, and religions. By embedding these values into school culture and curriculum, we aim to prepare our students to become active and responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

It was an absolute pleasure to see our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh group complete their Practice and Qualifying expeditions on back-to-back weekends. Despite a few navigation errors, they arrived in Butley on the final day thoroughly victorious: the assessors commented that few schools are as tidy, kind, and willing to learn as our students, cementing a reputation that Holbrook DofE has been building within this community for many years.

Mr Sansom and the behaviour team are currently working through the backlog of rewards orders. There have been supply challenges for a number of items that are listed on the rewards store, however, I am pleased to inform you that all orders should be fulfilled as of next week.

Full details about the trip for Year 8 students to the English Schools Football Association Final at the West Bromwich Albion stadium on Friday 24th May will be shared with families early next week.

Activities Week - We have planned a busy week, combining some on-site activities and a variety of day trips. Our annual sports day will also take place during this week.

We are excited to take participating year groups to Pleasurewood Hills, Lakeside Shopping Centre (Year 9 and 10 only), Colchester Zoo (Year 7 and 8 Only) and Curve, in Clacton, which is an on lake water park and assault course where we will have exclusive use of the facilities and all the activities on offer, including inflatable assault course, kayaking and Ringo's. On the days in the Academy, students will spend time doing fun learning activities along with our celebration assemblies and also take part in Sports Day.

We have tried to construct a programme for each year group which combines learning, challenge and fun and we think that there is something for everyone this year. We have also tried to limit the cost to families and to put together a package which we hope will be affordable and very good value for money. Full details are available in the letter which was emailed home - [Activities Week Letter](#)

I hope you have a restful weekend in the much needed sunshine.

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

Calendar / Upcoming Events

23rd May - Year 7 Progress Evening (*details to follow*)

24th May - Year 8 trip to English Schools FA final at West Bromwich Albion (*details to follow*)

27th to 31st May - Half-term

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**.

Parent View

We are keen for as many parents/carers as possible to complete this survey.

If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to complete the [Ofsted Parent View](#)

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?](#)

Year 11 : Exams Support

Here are some links to managing exam stress

- [NHS Help your child beat exam stress](#)
- [Anna Freud: How to identify the signs of academic stress, and ways to help](#)
- [Student Minds – resources, tips and blogs about exam stress](#)
- [Ofqual: Coping with exam pressure – a guide for students](#)

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.

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