

Academy News

17th May 2024



Dear Parents / Carers,

I received a lovely surprise on Tuesday that a kind and generous soul, John Sheldrake, has made a significant donation to the World Land Trust on behalf of Holbrook Academy. Specifically to support the Spring Appeal in South Africa, helping secure protected land for the most iconic and threatened wildlife. Our heartfelt thanks goes to John.

Next Friday, I have the absolute pleasure of accompanying Year 8 pupils to The Hawthorns, West Bromwich Albion's stadium, to watch our Year 8 boys team in the final of the National Cup. They have ordered their kit for matchday and we look forward to such a momentous event. The boys have done so well to get to this stage and I have no doubt that they will perform with heart and passion.

We are 9 days into the '24 day attendance challenge'. Thank you to all those parents and carers who support their child/ren to attend school regularly and support us as a school to promote good attendance at school. This is important in developing a lifelong habit which helps individuals to make the most of college and career opportunities. If there are challenges with your child attending school, please contact us to see if there is anything we can do to help.

Some of you may have noticed that we are advertising for an Assistant Headteacher role for September. It is with much sadness that I inform you that Mrs Watson, our current Acting Deputy Headteacher, is stepping away from her role at Holbrook Academy; we are indebted for her service to the school over the last 3 years. I, for one, will be very sad to see her go but grateful to have worked with her for this period of time. Serving as a leadership team can be an intense experience but Mrs Watson has always managed to find kindness and humour in our day to day shared experiences.

On Wednesday, a group of Year 10 Business students, under the guidance of Mr Chiwira and Mrs Mulvihill, went to the University of Suffolk for the University's 'Rising Entrepreneur Award'. We had two teams present their sauce projects to a panel of judges alongside teams from Thomas Mills High School, Farlingaye High School and Framlingham College.

The teams enjoyed expert coaching from business course leaders at the University ahead of their presentations to the panel which included representatives from Stokes Sauces, FIND and the University of Suffolk.

For the presentations, one of our teams used diversity as their Unique Selling Point. The sauce was called Beri Beri Jamaican inspired jerk sauce. The judges liked the idea that they were pitching something different. Our second team took the sustainability route. A very powerful presentation which was bell pepper inspired. Everyone in the room learned about sustainability and food wastage, especially wastage in the vegetable industry.

Despite a strong pitch from both teams, the winner was a chip shop curry sauce invented by students from Framlingham College, and this will be made at the company's Rendlesham Hall base, near Woodbridge, in July with the limited batch of 1,500 bottles being donated to Families In Need (FIND) food bank in Ipswich.

It was a fabulous day out for the students and I am sure they learnt a lot from both a business and a food tech point of view. The exposure they gained was invaluable.

George Anstee-Parry
Acting Headteacher

Calendar / Upcoming Events

23rd May - Year 10 Geography
Field trip to Southwold

23rd May - Year 7 Progress
Evening ([copy letter](#))

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

27th to 31st May - Half-term

Lost Property

We currently have a large quantity of students' lost property such as coats, jackets, PE Kits, shoes, etc which has been laid out in the main hall. If your child has lost something, please encourage them to check in the hall next week.

Anything which is not claimed by **Friday 24th May**, will be donated to a charity shop.

Please contact the office or come in during school hours to have a look for yourself.

Thank you.

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](#)

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**.

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](#)

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