



Headteacher : Dr Simon Letman BA, MA, EdD
Deputy Head : Nicola Shelley

16th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on an issue I raised in my end of term letter before Christmas.

At that time, I reported that every year we conduct a cycle of internal reviews to ensure that our standards remain high and we remain on-track to become an outstanding school. I went on to say that towards the end of the autumn term we had focused on standards of behaviour within the Academy, both in classrooms and around the site more generally. The review had thrown up concerns about a minority of individuals, mainly in Year 8 and 9, who exhibit anti-social behaviours and are generally disrespectful to staff.

I stated that these students, and any others who might follow their poor example, could expect us to take a tougher line this term, including a wider range of sanctions and an isolation room for those whose bad behaviour affects the learning of others.

We are now into the third week of term and it is clear that our tougher line is bearing fruit. A new system of lunchtime detentions has been introduced and we believe that students are now appreciating that we will not budge on our very high expectations at Holbrook and that those who might seek to disrupt the learning of others will be dealt with decisively.

We are about to take delivery of a new portable classroom facility which will be sited adjacent to the Design and Technology block. This will be our new isolation suite for those whose behaviour is of a very poor standard. Excluding students who exhibit anti-social behaviour is a last resort as it does interrupt their learning. The new suite will ensure that these students can still undertake their classwork under staff supervision but in a way which does not unduly impact on others. This means that exclusion in the future will be mainly used for those with the very poorest behaviour. We hope that the presence of such a facility will also act as a deterrent to those inclined to be disruptive.

As I said in my last letter, we hope that we can rely on your strong support as parents for the measures we are putting in place. Our objective is to ensure that in working together, we can discourage poor behaviour on the part of the minority so that all students have the best possible conditions for learning and success. This, in turn, will allow us to continue our remarkable development over the last few years and hold on to our position as the top-performing state school in Suffolk.

Thank you once again in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Letman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Simon Letman