

HOLBROOK ACADEMY



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

29th June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on two developments for next year.

Firstly, after careful consideration, we have decided to revert back to a 'horizontal' form arrangement across all years from this September. Since 2010, at Key Stage 3, we have used a 'vertical' form arrangement and a 'horizontal arrangement in Years 10 and 11.

What this means is that Key Stage 3 forms are currently made up from students in Years 7, 8 and 9. One advantage of this system is that students get to know more students more quickly when they join the school. However, one disadvantage of this arrangement is that it is harder to develop a year group identity or 'esprit de corps' through whole-year assemblies and other meetings and activities.

This year we will have our largest Year 7 entry in the Academy's history (120) and, on balance, we feel that it is even more important to develop a year-group culture and identity, hence the decision to revert to the previous system. Overall, we feel that the change will result in an even higher quality of tutor-provision for all students across Years 7, 8 and 9.

The second development to be aware of is, after discussion within the Student Council, it has been decided to add shorts to the list of uniform options from September. Please note that wearing shorts would be an 'option' only and would not be obligatory.

We have identified a good quality charcoal-coloured 'unisex' Bermuda-style short from Coe's, our official uniform suppliers, which may be worn during the summer term. The wearing of other styles, such as football shorts etc. will not be allowed. Should the weather justify it, and when officially notified by the Academy, shorts may also be worn in September and before Easter. The cost of the shorts will be in the region of £15.99 and they will appear as an optional item on the Coe's website for the coming year.

If you have any comments to make about either of these changes then I would be happy to receive your messages: simon.letman@holbrookacademy.org

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Letman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr Simon Letman