

18th July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year at Holderness Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on, and celebrate, some of the many highlights from recent weeks. These events have not only brought our community together but also demonstrated the very best of our school values: Aspiration, Respect, Resilience, and Kindness.

We were thrilled to host our annual **Festival of Sport** for Year 5 pupils from our local primary schools. Led by our dedicated and passionate Sports Ambassadors, the event gave younger pupils the chance to meet our staff and learners, experience our excellent 3G facilities, and gain a sense of what life at Holderness is all about. It was a fantastic day of fun, teamwork and sporting spirit.

Our three-day **transition event** welcomed our future Year 7 learners, who embraced the opportunity to follow a timetable, meet staff and peers and begin to familiarise themselves with our routines and expectations. It was a pleasure to witness how quickly they adapted to a new and unfamiliar setting—showcasing resilience, enthusiasm, and a clear willingness to become part of our Holderness family.

In recognition of our **Forces children**, we launched a unique Banksy-style dandelion mural project that gained support from local businesses and shops in Hedon. The project culminated in a meaningful visit to The Defence School of Transport at Leconfield—a wonderful way to honour and celebrate our service families.

This term has also seen a range of **enriching trips and experiences**. From Dalby Forest, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, to visits to Wilberforce College and Lincoln Castle, our learners have embraced every opportunity to broaden their horizons. We are incredibly proud of the many positive comments we continue to receive from members of the public about the excellent conduct, manners and maturity of our learners.

This term has also brought with it **outstanding sporting success**. Our **Year 9 boys' rugby team were crowned East Riding Cup champions**, demonstrating skill, teamwork, and sheer determination. Not to be outdone, our **Year 7 boys' rugby team also won the East Riding Cup final**—a particularly proud moment, as they were supported and coached by some of our own talented Year 10 learners. It was a wonderful example of peer leadership and the strength of our school's sporting community.

Our Active Travel Ambassadors have continued their important work encouraging sustainable and healthy ways to get to school. The recent **Active Travel Day**, complete with prizes and a smoothie bike, was a brilliant initiative that reinforced the value of wellbeing and environmental responsibility.

Sports Day this year had a wonderfully traditional feel, with races such as the sack race and egg-and-spoon—reminding us all of the simple joy of participation and friendly competition. We also proudly held our first-ever **Sports Awards**, recognising the exceptional sporting commitment and achievement of our learners.

We were delighted to be part of the **Challenge Cup tour**, with **Hull KR kindly bringing the Cup into school**. It was a moment of real excitement and pride, as learners and staff had the chance to see the trophy up close and capture photos with it. Opportunities like this inspire and unite our community, and we are grateful to Hull KR for making it possible.

The **Love Reading 4 Kids - Summer 2025 Reading List** is here, filled with engaging, age-appropriate books to keep your child reading and learning all summer long. Explore the list here - [Summer 2025 Reading List | LoveReading4Kids](#). When you purchase a book from Love Reading 4 Kids, a generous 25% of the cover price will be donated directly to our school. This contribution will help us continue to provide our school library with new and exciting books for your child to read and enjoy.

On Wednesday, we welcomed families and carers to our **Academic Awards Evening**. A much-loved event that shines a spotlight on learners who have gone above and beyond across all subject areas. It is always one of the most heartwarming evenings of the year, and a fitting celebration of the hard work and dedication shown by our learners.

Finally, as part of our ongoing commitment to high standards and a positive learning environment, we are making a number of important updates to our Behaviour Policy from September. These refinements are designed to ensure that every learner can thrive in a calm, focused and respectful atmosphere.

Key updates include:

- **Two Faculty Removals in one week = Reflection Session**
Rationale: To ensure our classrooms are free from disruption so that every young person can achieve their academic potential.
- **Two Lates to Lesson in one week = Detention**
Rationale: With five minutes of movement time built into the day, learners are expected to manage their time effectively. Punctuality is an essential life skill and key to future success.
- **New Warning Category: 'Peer-on-Peer Contact'**
Rationale: This warning addresses behaviours such as pulling bags or ties. We are committed to fostering a safe and respectful environment where all learners feel secure.
- **Mobile Phones: Off and in Bags**
Rationale: Phones must be switched off and stored in bags throughout the school day. If a phone is seen (even if not in use), it will be confiscated. This supports learners' wellbeing by reducing social media pressures, promoting face-to-face interaction, and ensuring full attention on learning.

The full updated Behaviour Policy will be published on our website before the start of the new term. These changes will also be explained to learners during their September induction. Your continued support in reinforcing our expectations at home plays a crucial role in maintaining the high standards we expect at Holderness Academy.

Some key dates detailed below:

Key Dates	
GCE 'A' Level Results Day	Thursday 14 th August
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 21 st August
Academy reopens to our Year 7 & 11 learners only	Wednesday 3 rd September
Academy reopens to all learners	Thursday 4 th September
Year 11 Parents Evening (Launch Event)	Thursday 11 th September
Year 5 & 6 Open Evening	Thursday 18 th September
Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' Evening	Thursday 9 th October

Year 11 CAEs	Monday 13 th October – Thursday 23 rd October
Academy closed to all learners	Friday 24 th October
October Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
Academy reopens to all learners	Monday 3 rd November

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support. On behalf of all the staff at Holderness Academy, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Holder
Headteacher