

20th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all the wonderful achievements and events that have taken place at Holderness Academy over the past term. It has been an incredibly busy and enriching time, filled with activities that reflect our core values of aspiration, resilience, respect and kindness.

We have seen our school community come together in remarkable ways, raising both funds and spirits through a series of charity events. One of the highlights was our Santa Run, where Year 7 learners and staff raised £791.50 for the Dove House Hospice. This event was a testament to the generosity and compassion that our learners consistently show, as they ran for a cause that will directly support families in our local area.

Additionally, our Year 9 bake sale for the RSPCA demonstrated the creativity and teamwork of our learners, who baked and sold delicious treats to raise funds for this essential charity. The Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children and our food donations for Hedon Community Foodbank were also huge successes. Our learners embraced the spirit of giving, raising both awareness and essential resources for those in need during this time of year.

A particularly exciting event this term was our Bike Giveaway, supported by the East Riding Council. We were thrilled to provide 30 of our learners with reconditioned bikes, giving them the opportunity to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle while also promoting sustainability. This initiative highlighted our commitment to supporting our learners' well-being and encouraging an environmentally conscious mindset.

Our Community Art Ecology Day was another fantastic initiative, where four local artists collaborated with our Year 10 learners in a completely immersive experience in the brand-new Creative Arts Suite. The day allowed our learners to explore new forms of artistic expression while also learning about the environment, fostering creativity and a sense of social responsibility.

The Christmas Service at St. Augustine's Church was a special occasion, where our learners, staff, and families gathered to celebrate the beginning of Christmas. It created a true sense of community and marked an important milestone in our school year.

Our Attendance Initiative: The 12 Days of Christmas have seen fantastic results, with an increase in attendance across the school as we near the end of a long term, and Holderness learners have maintained cumulative attendance well above national and regional averages. The effort put forth by our learners and staff to maintain high attendance standards is a reflection of their commitment to their education and the positive school culture we continue to nurture here at Holderness Academy.

It has been another exciting and action-packed term for our students, with numerous sporting events showcasing their talent, determination, and commitment. Here's a summary of some key achievements:

Our Year 9 boys football team performed exceptionally well in the 7-a-side competition, finishing unbeaten in 4 out of their 6 matches. Their solid performance saw them place 5th overall, a great result that highlights their growing skills and teamwork.

A fantastic day was had by our Year 8 and Year 9 girls who took part in the Rugby Inspiration Day at the university. The event provided an excellent opportunity for our students to develop their skills, gain valuable experience, and connect with other players in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Our SEND Boccia event was a resounding success, with enthusiastic participation from learners, supported by our dedicated sports leaders. This event, attended by local cluster primary schools, demonstrated the inclusive nature of our academy and the positive impact of sport in bringing people together.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 indoor athletics teams showcased their athleticism and competitive spirit. The Y8 boys' and girls' teams particularly impressed, securing 2nd place in their respective competitions. Well, done to all our athletes for their dedication and sportsmanship!

The Year 7 boys and girls football teams took part in the Matthew Simpson Memorial 5-a-side competition. Both teams gave their all in the tournament, showing remarkable teamwork and resilience, and representing the academy with pride.

These teams also participated in the Tigers Trust Inspire tournament, where they played some brilliant football. It was an amazing opportunity for many of our students to experience their first competition representing the Academy, and they showed great promise for the future whilst the Year 8 team finished 6th overall. Their hard work and determination were evident throughout the event, and this result is a testament to their progress and the continued development of girls' football at the academy.

It has been a memorable term, with all our athletes showing excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing even more successes in the next term as we continue to provide opportunities for all students to shine in the world of sport.

Thank you to all students, staff, and supporters for making this term a great success.

A reminder that the emergency contact details, medical information, dietary requirements and consents held on Arbor are used daily by our staff, and this information therefore needs to be up to date. To check the details we hold for your child, please log on to the Arbor Parent Portal app where this information can be viewed. If any of the details require updating, please do so and then select 'save changes'. This will automatically notify us and changes will take effect within 2 school days.

Some key dates detailed below:

| Key Dates for Autumn Term | |
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| Last day of term (Students will leave at 1.30pm) | Friday 20 th December |
| End of Term (Christmas Break) | Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January |
| Academy reopens to all students | Monday 6 th January |

Finally, as we head into the Christmas holidays, I want to extend my deepest thanks to you for your continued support of these wonderful events and initiatives. I am proud of all the hard work, dedication, and kindness that our learners have shown, and I am excited to see what the new year brings.

Wishing you all a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year on behalf of us all at Holderness Academy.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Holder', written in a cursive style.

Mr N Holder
Headteacher