

16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to begin this letter by celebrating the fantastic news that, following our recent Ofsted inspection, Holderness Academy has been officially rated as a **'Good'** school in all areas.

This is a significant moment for our whole community. We are proud that the published report recognises the progress we have made and the positive signs of impact across the Academy. During the final feedback of the inspection, the lead inspector affectionately referred to our learners as *"your lovely students"* — a small comment that speaks volumes about the warmth, maturity and character they displayed throughout the visit.

We are especially proud that inspectors noted how our students are progressing well in both their subjects and personal development and that they feel safe, supported, and cared for by skilled and dedicated staff.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our parents and carers, and for the trust placed in us by our community. This recognition marks an important milestone on our journey of continuous improvement — a journey we have walked together, guided by our core values of Aspiration, Resilience, Respect, and Kindness. To view the full report please visit our website - [Ofsted Report - Holderness Academy](#).

These values continue to shape daily life at Holderness. Whether it's through the ambition our learners show in, the determination they bring to challenge, or the care and respect they demonstrate for one another — we see our values in action every day.

### **A Mischief of Rats – 'Amazing Amy'**

We are also proud to share our involvement in A Mischief of Rats, a unique sculpture trail of 45 giant artist-decorated rats now on display across Hull and the East Riding. This creative and charitable project supports the Daisy Appeal, which funds life-saving technology for those affected by cancer, heart disease and dementia.

Eight of our talented Year 10 art students, supported by alumni artist Emily Dodgson, helped design and decorate 'Amazing Amy', a sculpture sponsored by the Amy Johnson Arts Trust. Amy now proudly stands on Market Hill in Hedon, celebrating Amy Johnson's historic local connection. The piece has already attracted praise for "putting Hedon on the map" and is a fantastic example of our learners' aspiration, creativity and community spirit.

We encourage you to visit 'Amy' and explore the trail — you can download the map here: [A Mischief of Rats Trail Map](#)

### **VE Day**

In the same week VE Day 80 was commemorated across Hedon and local villages, we ensured our learners explored the significance of the event through our tutor programme, helping them understand the impact and legacy of the Second World War — and the importance of remembering those who served.

### **Bee Lady Day**

On Monday 13th May, we also took time to mark Bee Lady Day, celebrating the life and legacy of one of Hull's most beloved local heroes — Jean Bishop. Known for her tireless fundraising and her trademark bee costume, Jean embodied kindness, service and community spirit. Her example reminds us all the power of small acts of good that can make a lasting difference.

### **Year 11 Examinations**

Meanwhile, GCSE examinations are now well underway, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity, focus and determination shown by our Year 11 students. Their dedication to their studies reflects all that we stand for at Holderness. We look forward to celebrating their achievements with them in the summer.

### **Catering Service Provider**

We will be moving to a new catering service provider for the new academic year. The new provider is Caterlink, and they already work in a number of local schools. Further communications will be sent as the academic year draws to a close but for the remainder of term 3, we request that parents and carers check their balances on Arbor and only add funds sufficient for the rest of the term.

### **A message from East Riding Schools Music Service**

We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for school-age children to join our Signing Choir! This unique choir combines the beauty of music with the expressive power of sign language, creating performances that are both visually and audibly stunning. Please see the letter attached to this communication for further details.

### **Holderness Academy Sports Updates**

Our sporting calendar has also been full of success, pride and spirited competition. We hosted the Quad Kids Primary Athletics event in glorious sunshine, where our younger visitors shone with energy and enthusiasm. Our Year 10 boys' rugby team showed great determination in a closely contested Yorkshire Plate final against Kelvin Hall, while our Year 8 team also gave a strong performance in the East Riding Cup against Cottingham High. Although both teams narrowly missed out on victory, their performances were full of character and teamwork. A special mention also goes to our Year 11 girls, who proudly represented Holderness for the final time, finishing second in their last ever rounders' tournament — a fitting end to years of dedication and excellence.

### **Work Experience**

Looking ahead, Monday marks the start of Work Experience week for our Year 10 learners, an invaluable opportunity to step beyond the classroom and into the wider world. These placements often provide clarity, inspiration, and real-world insight that help shape learners' aspirations in remarkable ways. We are confident that our Year 10's will display our Holderness values and thrive in the workplace.

Some key dates detailed below:

Key Dates for Summer Term	
Year 10 work Experience	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Academy reopens to all students	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025

As we continue into the term, we remain ambitious for our Academy, our learners, and our future. There is still more to do — and we are ready. Together, with your continued support, we will continue to grow, achieve, and thrive — the Holderness way.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Holder  
Headteacher