

15th November 2019

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are now more than half way through the first half term, I wanted to write to you once more to keep you updated with developments at Holyrood.

First of all thank you very much for all of your support so far this academic year. It has been fantastic to meet so many of you and so important in cementing our school/home partnership.

We have already held a number of successful events including the annual Open Evening, the Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening and the Introduction to the Sixth Form. Attendance at all of these events has been excellent and we have had some extremely positive feedback. It was particularly good to see how well Year 7 have settled in and how happy they are at Holyrood. Thank you to all parents who completed our transition survey which will help us do even better for future cohorts.

I am also delighted that we have been able to continue to expand our offer of trips and enrichment activities. Our sporting teams are enjoying superb success, music and drama clubs have record attendance and we are very grateful to staff for the numerous trips and visits they have run already including the recent Year 10 Geography trip to Naples, the mock bar trial competition, Challenge Plus events and Duke of Edinburgh training. The good news is that there is much more to come.

Our two examination years: Year 13 and Year 11 are really impressing us with their commitment and work ethic. We have just completed the first assessment point for these year groups and our early analysis suggests that they are on track for some truly exceptional results. Attendance at revision classes is high and students are demonstrating outstanding resilience and ambition in their attitudes to learning.

We have also been working hard on some of the areas that we know you are keen for us to improve on. We are undertaking widespread student voice activities on bullying and are setting up a student working party to help us rewrite the anti-bullying policy. This group will consist of students from all year groups and will address all types of bullying including homophobic, racist and disability related bullying. We hope to have a new draft policy to share with you early in the new year.

Ready to Learn, now in its second year and with a renewed focus on getting young people back into lessons as quickly as possible, is also proving successful.

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We have had far fewer students being sent out of lessons and they are returning back to their classes more quickly. The aim of course, is to have no students out of any lessons.

Alongside this, we have been able to invest more in our Learning Support Team and have more teaching assistants than ever supporting our vulnerable students. We have also recently appointed a teacher in charge of providing targeted support to students who may be struggling to access school because of emotional difficulties.

Finally we are planning on holding interviews for a new permanent Headteacher on December 5th and 6th. I will be writing again following this process to give you more information on how they have gone and the plans therefore for leading the school after Christmas.

In the meantime however, I am always happy to meet or make contact with you if you have any concerns or questions about your child's experiences at Holyrood. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to arrange this.

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Heath

Headteacher

Holyrood Academy

CEO, Uffculme Academy Trust