

Dr Martin Luther King Jr Day (20th January) Burns Night

(25th January) Chinese New Year (25th January)

Theme for the week: Ambitions

Thought of the week: 'I have a dream' Martin Luther King



Aspire & Achieve Together

Quickfire Week

The week in bullet points

This Week

◇ Holocaust Event Friday 24th January 10am-11am Years 9 and 10

Letters sent home recently:

◇ Disco Letter-Years 7, 8 and 9

◇ Japan Trip 2020

◇ Duke of Edinburgh Year 10

All letters can be found on the school website:

[https://](https://www.holcombegrammar.org.uk/2019/09/letters-home-2019-2020/)

www.holcombegrammar.org.uk/2019/09/letters-home-2019-2020/

Next Week (Week A)

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remarkably, tomorrow will be one month since Christmas Day. Where does the time go? I wanted to write to give you a few updates. I have now been here three weeks and have been working hard in getting to know the school. I have held meetings with a range of staff at the school (By Feb half term I will have held 1:1 meetings with every single member of staff), the Student Captains' Team and some of our Governors. I have also met with key figures in the Trust team regarding our financial position, our building improvement plans and our large ambitions for the future. In all of these meetings I ask the same two questions; 'what are we doing well?' and 'what needs to be better?' I am compiling a detailed list of strengths of our school and also a range of suggested improvements that we will consider and act upon. In the coming weeks, I will be asking you, our parents and carers, to complete a similar survey and return it to me at Holcombe. I really do value your views, so I am asking all of you to complete and return this to me when this is issued so I can hear your voices, too.

The real strength of Holcombe is unquestionably our students and a highlight for me has been the opportunity to meet many of them in the past few weeks. Last week we were delighted to hear that three of our Year 13s had received offers to study at Cambridge University next year, in addition to 65 other Year 13 students who all submitted their UCAS applications this term; we wish

them well as offers will start to arrive soon. We also wish our Year 11s well for the next two weeks as they complete their next round of prelims in advance of their GCSE exams this summer. I have now introduced myself to the whole school in assemblies and asked my two questions to many students as I walk around the school at breaks and lunchtimes. I have also visited numerous lessons to observe first-hand the excellent learning going on and the largely good standard of behaviour on show.

The vast majority of our students are very well behaved in lessons, around the school and in the vicinity of the school on their journeys to and from school. Unfortunately, I have become aware of some behaviour which is unacceptable. I will not tolerate behaviour in lessons that persistently disrupts the learning of others, behaviour around the school that is anti-social and behaviour in the vicinity of the school that damages the reputation of our school. With this in mind, we are currently undertaking a behaviour audit so that we can identify and deal with any students whose behaviour is a persistent cause for concern. We will be in touch soon with parents of any students who are identified as being a regular cause for concern so we can meet and discuss a way forward. I am also increasing the number of staff on duty outside Holcombe at the end of the day, so we can ensure that the behaviour of our students is as good outside school as it is inside school. I am asking for your support with this – please speak with your child and encourage them to behave well both in and out of school.

I will provide regular updates in the weekly blog. As I said previously, I am still running the parent drop-in sessions on a Wednesday evening if parents would like to speak with me. If you have anything you are concerned about, and if you have already been through the proper channels in trying to address your concern, then please do make an appointment and come in for a chat.

Mr L Preston
Principal

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Japan Visit October 2020

Students who have been successful for the Japan trip have been informed this week. The first payment must be made by via ParentPay by Monday 27th January 2020 to secure the flights.



Detling County Careers Fair

On Friday 17th January Year 10 and 11 had the opportunity to attend the County Careers Fair at Detling Showground. This was an excellent opportunity for students to network with potential employers, obtain information and resources and widen their awareness of the potential career or educational paths that are open to them. They listened to a presentation about apprenticeships, which sought to rebuke some of the common myths about apprenticeships. They were able to speak to colleges and universities and gain an understanding of the courses they offer. Meanwhile, employers including the NHS, Kent Police, Kent Transport and various banks, companies and business were also represented and happy to speak to students and answer their questions, giving them an insight into the working world.



Message from Student Services

We currently have over a hundred unclaimed coats and other items in lost property and we would love to return them to their rightful owners. If your son has lost a coat, then he can collect it from the old gym changing rooms next to the atrium between 3.05pm and 3.30pm up until Friday 7th February 2020. Parents are welcome to look during the Parents' Evening, 4:30pm-6:30pm, on the 6th February. Any coats remaining after this day will be either offered to students for a small donation to school or donated to a local homeless charity. All monies collected will be used towards the pastoral needs of our students. Please encourage your son to have a look. Thank you.

Holcombe, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6JB | www.holcombegrammar.org.uk

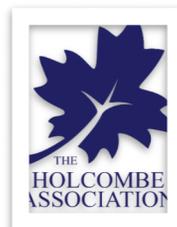
Tel: 0333 360 2130 | Email: office@holcombegrammar.org.uk



Aspire & Achieve Together

Holcombe Association Disco

The Holcombe Association would like to invite Years 7, 8 and 9 to the disco being held at Holcombe Grammar School on Friday 7th February, 7pm-9:30pm, with students from Fort Pitt Grammar School. If students would like to attend, they will need to collect a letter and designated envelope from the School Office and return by Friday 31st January, enclosing a payment of £3.50 in cash, or a cheque made payable to THE HOLCOMBE ASSOCIATION. Only those listed will be admitted. Please do not send your child along without prior booking as they will not be admitted to the disco and they will need to be collected. Our concern is for the safety and enjoyment of all pupils on site. Please note confirmation of attendance is dependent on student behaviour. Miss Martin will communicate final decisions as necessary.



Pupils are requested to remain on site for the entire evening unless arrangements are made with the Holcombe Association prior to the event. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the night. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to email the Holcombe Association: chair@holcombe.org.uk, quoting DISCO in the subject line. Parent volunteers are needed for the evening, please email if you can support.

Notices Family Food Bank have advised that our support for the '12 Tins of Christmas' appeal made a huge difference to families over the festive period. In total our donations weighed 300kg!

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	Key Dates
W/C 27.01.20 and 03.02.20	Year 11 Prelims
06.02.20	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
07.02.20	Year 12 Apprenticeships Fair
07.02.20	Year 7, 8 and 9 Disco 7pm-9:30pm
13.02.20	Year 12 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
14.02.20	Term 3 Ends
17.02.20-21.02.20	February Break
24.02.20	Term 4 Commences
02.03.20	Year 13 Prelims
19.03.20	Year 8 Parents' and Options' Evening; 4:30pm-7:30pm
03.04.20	Term 4 Ends
10.04.20	Good Friday
13.04.20	Easter Monday
06.04.20-17.04.20	Spring Break
20.04.20	Term 5 Commences
23.04.20	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
08.05.20	Early May Bank Holiday (instead of Monday 4 th May)
22.05.20	Term 5 Ends
25.05.20-29.05.20	May Break
01.06.20	Term 6 Commences
W/C 15.06.20	Year 10 Prelims
W/C 22.06.20	Year 12 Prelims
25.06.20	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm
30.06.20	Year 12 Induction
01.07.20	Year 12 Induction
02.07.20	Year 12 Work Experience Week
14.07.20	Founders' Day
15.07.20	Sports Day
17.07.20	Term 6 Ends
20.07.20	Staff Development Day
21.07.20	Staff Development Day

Clubs Term 3

	BEFORE SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: SUPPORT GROUP H14</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: MET M13</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB B12</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: FRENCH CLUB WEEK A IN S16 / WEEK B IN S14</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: HOL-TONES VOCAL GROUP</p>	<p>TABLE TENNIS (ALL YEARS)</p> <p>SEA CADETS 1845-2115pm Victory Academy</p>
TUESDAY	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: BOOK THIEVES B12</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: SPANISH AND FRENCH FILM CLUB S16</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: YEAR 7 BAND IN MUSIC</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: RIDDLE CLUB IN M10 (YEAR 7 and 8)</p>	<p>RUGBY (YEAR 7 AND 8)</p> <p>BASKETBALL (YEAR 9 AND 10)</p> <p>HOMEWORK CLUB H20</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: MFL HOMEWORK CLUB S16</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: CHESS CLUB M10</p>	<p>LIVE SOUND CLUB IN MUSIC</p> <p>1ST XI FOOTBALL FIXTURES</p> <p>HANDBALL (YEAR 7 AND 8)</p> <p>HOMEWORK CLUB H20</p>
THURSDAY	<p>GYM</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: YUGIOH CLUB H11</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: CREATIVE WRITING CLUB IN THE LIBRARY</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: YEAR 8 BAND IN MUSIC</p>	<p>BADMINTON (YEAR 7-10)</p> <p>HOMEWORK CLUB H20</p>
FRIDAY	<p>LUNCHTIME: BRASS BAND IN MUSIC</p> <p>LUNCHTIME: DEBATE CLUB B12</p>	<p>GYM (ALL YEARS)</p> <p>FOOTBALL TRAINING</p> <p>GCSE PE PRACTICAL SUPPORT</p> <p>RHYTHM AND BLUES BAND IN MUSIC</p>



We also have the Medway Victory Sea Cadets Unit. Cadets are expected to regularly attend the unit on Mondays 1845-2115pm The Victory Academy in smart, tidy uniform. If you would like to find out more about the Sea Cadet Corps, search 'Medway Victory Sea Cadet Unit' on Facebook or contact trevor.eaton@cadetmail.mod.uk, or contact Mrs Villalta within school.