



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas



SHAPING POSITIVE FUTURES



Holderness Has Got Talent!

Welcome from **our CEO**

Lizann Lowson

As we near the end of another action-packed term, I want to celebrate the achievements that bring our vision of shaping positive futures to life.

This year has been defined by collaboration and a shared commitment to excellence – thanks to you, our brilliant team.

Curriculum enrichment has been a real highlight, with learning brought to life through expanding horizons with **geography fieldwork**, exploring STEM through **WiME and Humber STEM initiatives**, and developing entrepreneurial skills via the **Young Enterprise programme**. The primary **Festival of Oracy** inspired creativity and confidence in communication in our youngest learners.

Learner engagement and leadership have been exceptional. A standout example was the **Just Listen project**, a student-led initiative raising awareness of stammering, created in collaboration with NHS Humber. This powerful resource is now available nationally—a testament to the impact of student voice.

Celebratory events have brought our communities together, from whole-school performances and musicals to awards evenings that recognised success in all its forms. These moments showcase talent, resilience and the joy of achievement.



Community engagement continues to play an important role, with our schools at the heart of local life. From **remembrance events** and **Christmas light switch-ons** to festive traditions like **nativities**, **choirs** visiting care homes, and **charity initiatives**, you have created experiences that bring joy and meaning to our learners and their families.

Thank you for your creativity and commitment. As we look ahead to 2026, I'm excited for what we'll achieve together. Wishing you a joyful festive season and time to recharge—you've truly earned it!



Winifred Holtby's production of Elf!

Message from our Chair of the Trust Board

Ian Furlong



As a Trust, we have the privilege of shaping positive futures for nearly 8,000 learners across Hull and the East Riding. As the Christmas break approaches, I am once again reminded of the remarkable difference you make to the lives of these young people.

This festive edition of our newsletter showcases how our vision and values come to life every day in our schools. At this time of year, this shines even brighter as schools enjoy Christmas celebrations at the heart of their communities.



These celebrations are the culmination of the dedication, creativity and relationships built throughout the year—work that often happens quietly behind the scenes but makes a lasting impact. Thank you for the effort you bring, whether in our classrooms or in shared services. Your commitment truly makes a difference to our learners' lives.

“On behalf of the Trust Board, thank you for everything you do to help us achieve our vision. I hope you enjoy the Christmas celebrations and wish you all a peaceful, well-deserved break with family and friends.”



Hull KR Challenge Cup visit with Willie Peters, Guy Smith celebrates student success and end of term rewards event.



It has been another amazing term at Cottingham High School, with significant developments in our facilities.

We were thrilled to have **Willie Peters** officially open our new Rewards Room, a space dedicated to celebrating student achievement. Alongside this, we launched our **THRIVE Centre**, designed to support **well-being** and personal growth. Further improvements include new changing rooms and toilets, a refreshed KS4 canteen, and upgraded classrooms, all of which enhance the learning environment for our students and staff. Our **Awards Evening** was a standout moment, celebrating student success with guest speaker racing driver and **Le Mans champion Guy Smith**, who inspired everyone and promised to return to work with our STEM club on the school Go Kart project.

November saw a heartfelt show of respect during **Remembrance**, supported by the **Royal British Legion Silhouette Project**. Staff and students in the KS3 Art Club created striking metal silhouettes for community displays. In December, our Reverse Advent Calendar initiative supported **Cottingham Food Bank**, reflecting our commitment to giving back.

Students enjoyed enriching experiences, including the **Year 10 Apprenticeship Expo** at Bishop Burton, **Year 9 Engineers Insight Day** at Sewell Construction Ltd, and **Tigers Trust** workshops. Cultural opportunities included trips to see **Oliver Twist** at **Hull New Theatre**, with one of our very own **Year 11** students starring in the production.

We welcomed primary pupils for '**Learn With Us**' transition lessons with Westfield, Croxby, and Dunswell schools, and hosted the **borough cross-country event**. Other highlights included **Year 7 Restart the Heart training** and **Reading Week**.

Our students continue to shine beyond the classroom. In sport girls have been leading the way - success has included a **Year 11** student selected for the **UK Junior Premier League**, playing against top Women's Super League academies and set to train with Real Madrid in Spain; one **Year 8** student celebrating victory in the **RFL U13s Girls National Cup Final**, whilst another completed **FA Young Coaching Training**, meeting England Lioness **Fara Williams**.

It has been a term full of progress, opportunity and celebration, thanks to the continued support of our staff, students and community partners.





Visit to Magnolia House Care Home and celebrating Christmas festivities.

As we come to the end of another exciting term at Croxby, we reflect on the many moments that have made this term so special.

From gestures of kindness to enthusiasm for learning and plenty of fun along the way, our school values of Work Hard and Aim High have truly shone through every day.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this term has been the incredible learning opportunities our children have embraced. **Online author visits, writing competitions,** and our very own **Festival of Oracy, featuring special guest magician, Drummond Money-Coutts (Magination),** have sparked creativity and confidence (and magic tricks) across the school. Watching our pupils speak with such clarity and passion was a real highlight.

Equally, our value of Be Kind has been demonstrated time and again. A group of Year 5 girls showed remarkable initiative by making and selling bracelets to raise funds for **Dove House Hospice** which was a gesture that truly embodies the spirit of Croxby. Our Year 5 teacher, Maggie Sykes, also inspired us all by completing a **swim-lengths challenge** in support of **Cancer Research**. In addition, the whole school joined together for our **festive Tinsel Trot Run**, raising more funds for Dove House

Hospice. These acts of kindness remind us what a caring community we are.

Our choir brought festive cheer to the residents of **Magnolia House Care Home**, sharing songs and smiles that warmed hearts. And speaking of festive fun, our **Christmas Fayre** was a resounding success! Every class created their own stall, joined by our **ECO Council** and **Well-Being Ambassadors**, while Year 6 pupils ran their enterprise stalls with enthusiasm and creativity. It was a true **Team Croxby** effort, and the turnout was incredible.

As the term draws to a close, the sound of children singing fills our halls, with EYFS and Key Stage 1 **Nativity performances** stealing the show. The bravery, confidence and sheer cuteness of our youngest stars never fail to make us proud. The last day will be a day of **Christmas jumpers** and **festive fun** with the pantomime '**Agent Frostbite**' followed by **Christmas Dinner** and finishing off with carols around the tree. The singing and dance routine for the 12 days of Christmas will bring the term to a close.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Hessle



Awards evening, Tigers Trust partnership and Visit to BAE Systems.



As we approach the festive season, it's a perfect time to reflect on efforts and achievements at Hessle High this term; the dedication and creativity shown by staff and students in delivering such a rich and varied programme of experiences is wonderful to see.

The term began with a strong focus on celebration and aspiration. The **KS4/5 Celebration Evening** was a standout event, recognising the hard work and success of our students in a truly inspiring atmosphere. Alongside this, initiatives such as **Restart a Heart** provided invaluable life-saving skills, reinforcing our commitment to equipping students with practical knowledge that extends beyond the classroom.



Our partnership with **Tigers Trust** offered students a unique opportunity to engage in sports and teamwork, while the **BAE Systems final** showcased the incredible talent and innovation within our STEM pathways. These experiences not only enrich learning but also build confidence and resilience—qualities that will serve our students well in the future.

A group of staff and students embarked on a cultural trip to **Lille, France**, broadening horizons and creating memories that will last a lifetime. The much-anticipated **Christmas Concert at All Saints' Church**, Hessle brought our community together in celebration, marking the perfect end to a busy and rewarding term.

Behind the scenes, staff are already working tirelessly to plan an inspiring calendar of events for the New Year, ensuring that opportunities for growth, creativity, and achievement remain at the heart of everything we do. From academic enrichment to cultural experiences and sporting challenges, the commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education is stronger than ever. These events not only showcase the talent within our school but also strengthen the sense of community that makes Hessle High so special.



Remembrance Day and Candle Procession at St. Augustine's, Hedon. Just Listen Stammer project.

This term at Holderness Academy has been shaped by creativity, community action and the inspiring achievements of our students – all firmly rooted in our values of Aspiration, Resilience, Respect and Kindness.

A standout highlight has been the revival of Performing Arts at the heart of academy life. For the first time in several years, our stage came alive as we hosted our inaugural **Holderness Has Talent**. Sixteen acts performed in front of a packed audience filled with members of the community.

Student leadership and advocacy have also been exceptionally strong this term. A student's aspiration to raise awareness of stammering inspired a groundbreaking collaboration between the Trust, **NHS Humber** and learners across the region. Together, they produced **Just Listen** – a powerful, student-led resource now available nationally. The project exemplifies Respect, Kindness and the courage to use one's voice to make a meaningful difference.



Our sense of community has also flourished through our whole-school **Plant a Daffodil** initiative in support of Marie Curie. Every student and member of staff took part, planting bulbs across the grounds to create a living symbol of hope, renewal and compassion. The daffodil – Marie Curie's emblem – reflects the charity's mission and connects deeply with our values of Respect and Kindness. As these flowers bloom in spring, they will serve as a reminder of our collective commitment to supporting others and building a nurturing school environment.

Beyond these significant moments, students have embraced a wide range of enrichment opportunities. Twenty-nine students had artwork selected for the **Ferens Young Artists Open Exhibition**, and "**Amazing Amy**," our much-loved rat sculpture, returned from Princes Quay as part of a residency supporting the Daisy Appeal. Meanwhile, curriculum experiences have been rich and varied, from Year 11 Geography fieldwork in Bridlington to reflective Social Science learning in Poland, alongside STEM engagement through **WiME**, **Humber STEM 2025** and our creative **Year 9 STEM Day**.

This term has showcased the very best of Holderness Academy. Our students' creativity, compassion and commitment to our values continue to shape a vibrant, aspirational school community.



Students enjoying bowling, Duke of Edinburgh exhibition and CPR skills with Restart a Heart.



This term at Howden has been packed with exciting opportunities and achievements for our students.

From enrichment activities and careers guidance to sporting triumphs, the school community has truly excelled.

Students embraced a variety of initiatives designed to broaden their experiences. **Active Travel Day** offered Year 7 students well-being walks, immersive cycle training, puncture repair workshops, and road safety sessions, with many completing Bikeability Level 3. Mechanics from local charity Revolution also led a hands-on bike-building workshop. **Restart A Heart Day** provided Year 8 students with lifesaving CPR and defibrillator training, delivered by the **Yorkshire Ambulance Service** and **Humberside Fire and Rescue Crew**.

Our school charity, **A Shining Light**, reached its ambitious **£21,000** target through the '21 for 21' challenge, thanks to creative fundraising efforts such as a student-led bingo event. Students also represented the school at the annual **Remembrance service and parade**, while three Year 10 teams entered the Young Enterprise competition after delivering outstanding business pitches. **International Men's Day** was marked with assemblies exploring positive relationships and communication.

Careers education has been a major focus. **Siemens Gamesa** delivered workshops to all Year 9 students, inspiring future pathways in engineering and technology. Our **Careers Fair** provided insights into a wide range of professions, while **apprenticeship mock interviews** helped older students prepare for real-world opportunities. The **Tigers Trust Inspiration Day** offered motivational sessions to encourage ambition and resilience.

Outdoor learning also featured strongly, with half of our **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh** cohort successfully completing their assessment expedition. The remaining students will complete theirs in April after postponement due to storm conditions.

Sporting success has been equally impressive. The **Under-15 girls football team** reached the Last 16 of the **ESFA National Cup**, while the Under-12 girls won the **East Riding 5-a-side** competition. Panathlon competitors qualified for the **Humberside Round**, and over 20 students competed in the **East Riding Cross Country Championships**, with 10 advancing. This term also saw two exciting firsts: our Under-14 boys played the school's first competitive Rugby League fixture, and we entered our first darts team, which reached the semi-finals. Meanwhile, the Year 9 football team continues its strong season, aiming for a third consecutive **Humberside Cup** win.





*Hobson & Porter
experience day at Bishop
Burton College,
Residential at Peat Rigg
and visit to Sewerby Hall.*



What a busy, joyful and productive term it has been at Keyingham Primary School!

Our children have embraced a wide range of learning experiences, enrichment activities and opportunities to shine—both in and beyond the classroom. We are delighted to share some of the highlights from this term.

This term, every year group has enjoyed a rich and varied programme of hands-on learning beyond the classroom, helping to bring our curriculum to life. From Year 1's exploration of the **local village** to Year 2's visit to **Sewerby Hall**, Year 3's adventure at **Spurn Point**, and Year 4's autumn discoveries at **Sandy Bottom Pumpkin Farm**, our children have embraced new environments and experiences. Year 5 gained valuable insight into future pathways through the **Hobson & Porter experience day** at Bishop Burton College, while Year 6 developed independence and resilience during their much-anticipated **residential at Peat Rigg**. Together, these opportunities have deepened pupils' understanding of the world and fostered confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning.



Our school community has once again demonstrated curiosity, courage and kindness through a range of meaningful events this term, including **fundraising activities for Children in Need**, thoughtful participation in our **Remembrance Day commemorations**, and an inspiring visit from a professional athlete who encouraged pupils to stay active and persevere. These moments have helped strengthen our values and brought our school community together.

Music and performance continue to play a vibrant role in school life: the unforgettable **Young Voices experience**, regular **Rock Steady band rehearsals** and Christmas performances filling the school with festive excitement.

The library van continues its much-loved visits every other Tuesday, helping children discover new stories for both classroom and home reading. We are proud to announce that the school has been awarded the **Green Flag Award**, recognising our commitment to sustainability. Our work with **OPAL** is progressing well, and we are now focusing on achieving our next award.

This term has offered an exceptional range of experiences that have enriched our pupils' academic, personal and social development. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils and the continued support of our parents and wider community.



Christmas Jumper Day

The Autumn term at Oakfield School has been a vibrant and productive start to the academic year, marked by growth, community spirit, and a deepening commitment to environmental responsibility.

Students across the school settled smoothly into their new year groups, demonstrating resilience and positivity as they adapted to fresh routines, expectations, and learning opportunities.

One of the standout achievements came from Year 8, whose students engaged in a diverse range of **outdoor education activities** designed to build teamwork, confidence and practical skills. From den building in the woods to peaceful mornings spent fishing, from adventurous biking sessions to hands-on experiences at the farm, these activities not only broadened students' horizons but also encouraged them to connect with nature and each other. Equally impressive were the PLC students, who embraced independent travel with maturity and determination, gaining valuable life skills that will support their future independence.



Another exciting development this term was the launch of the Eco-Warriors committee, a passionate group of students dedicated to improving the school's environmental impact. Their early initiatives—including a whole-school recycling challenge and the promotion of eco-friendly habits—have already begun to inspire real change within the Oakfield community.

Alongside these achievements, the school united to support several important awareness events. Students and staff alike took part in Hello Yellow to promote mental health awareness, joined the **White Ribbon Day campaign** to stand against violence, and celebrated **Christmas Jumper Day** with enthusiasm and generosity.

More information about day-to-day school life, upcoming events, and student achievements can now also be found on our new Oakfield Facebook page, which provides regular updates and showcases the many wonderful things happening across the school.

Overall, the term has been filled with learning, creativity, and meaningful experiences that have enriched the school community, setting a strong and hopeful tone for the year ahead.





Opal Play and Creativity shining through.

As this first term as Headteacher draws to a close, I want to begin by sharing how proud I am to have joined this wonderful community.

It has been a busy and exciting few months, full of success, achievement, and the joy of seeing our pupils thrive. Together, we have already achieved so much, and I am delighted to reflect on some of the highlights of the term.

One of the most notable developments this term has been the introduction of our new weekly **Celebration Assembly**. This has quickly become a highlight of the week, giving us the opportunity to recognise a wide range of pupil achievements. We particularly enjoy hearing about what children accomplish outside of school, alongside their hard work and progress in the classroom. These assemblies have been a wonderful way to celebrate talent, effort, and perseverance, and they have helped to strengthen our sense of community.

We are also in the early stages of implementing **OPAL play**, which has already brought great excitement to the playground. Children have embraced the wide range of resources and equipment, showing imagination, collaboration, determination, and resilience in their play. It has been inspiring to see how quickly they have adapted and how much joy this has brought to their daily routines.

This term has been packed with memorable events and opportunities for our pupils:

- Year 4 swimming lessons have helped children develop confidence and vital life skills.
- Both boys and girls have represented the school in football tournaments, showing teamwork and determination.
- Pupils took part in the Hessle Town Council Christmas Card competition and enjoyed the festive lights switch-on.
- The PFA Monster Disco and Christmas Fayre brought families together in celebration.
- We welcomed a visit from the Challenge Cup with Hull KR, which was a real highlight for sports fans.
- Our EYFS children visited the local post office to post letters to Father Christmas, a magical experience for them.

We are now in the full swing of festive activities, with rehearsals for our Christmas productions and carol concerts reaching their final stages. These events are always a special way to end the term, and the dedication and hard work of pupils and staff over recent weeks will soon be rewarded as we share these performances with families and the wider community.





Christmas production of *Elf*.



This term has been a truly energising and uplifting start to the academic year, filled with opportunities for our students to lead, participate and shine.

Our House system continues to sit at the heart of our school culture, and it has been wonderful to see such high levels of engagement, teamwork and community spirit across all year groups.

A standout success has been the reinvigoration of **student leadership**. Our Year 11 students have embarked on a micro-training programme, preparing them to mentor and guide younger students. Many of our enthusiastic Year 9 and Year 10 students have signed up for mentor training, ready to support the launch of a peer mentoring programme later in the year.

Alongside this, students have enjoyed **Wini's Got Talent**, and a series of inspiring assemblies from external providers in PSHCE.

Our **House competitions** have been a real highlight, offering students rich opportunities to connect, collaborate and challenge themselves. This term alone, we have enjoyed an impressive variety of events—from Year 7 tug of war and whole-year numeracy challenges, to Science Educake competitions,

Accelerated Reader challenges in KS3, language competitions, Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week.

Charity remains a powerful driver within our community. Through Penny Wars, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, and Wear It Pink (where an incredible **613 students** signed up), a remarkable **£1,623.56** was raised.



Our House Champions have also played a vital role in maintaining momentum, celebration and communication. Weekly bulletins, regularly updated internal screens, and fortnightly meetings have kept everyone informed and engaged. Last half term concluded with well-deserved celebrations as Riseholme House, winners of last year's competition, enjoyed an unforgettable inflatable reward event.

The dedication of staff and students during rehearsals for our **Christmas production, Elf**, was amazing to see and the show was a sell-out for three consecutive nights.

Our Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Day in support of **Save the Children**, our **Gingerbread Food Challenge** and **inter-house football** add to the festivities during the last week of term. This term has shown what makes our school so special: committed staff, enthusiastic students, and a community that works together to achieve remarkable things.



Grease production

Autumn 2025 has been a term full of opportunities—some rooted in tradition, others offering fresh experiences—all contributing to The Wolfreton Experience in unique and valuable ways.

In October, we achieved a long-held ambition: capturing a whole-school photo. While we have a proud tradition of taking annual 'Big Photos' for Years 11 and 13, this was the first time every year group came together for one picture. The turnout and the smiles said it all—this was a moment of pride and unity, a milestone for our community.

Later that month, students from Years 8 to 13 headed to Barcelona to immerse themselves in the city's vibrant culture, stunning architecture, and world-famous cuisine. Highlights included visits to Antoni Gaudí's masterpieces—the awe-inspiring Sagrada Familia and the whimsical Park Güell - as well as the FC Barcelona immersive museum, a dream for many sports fans. Beyond the sights, the trip gave students the chance to practise Spanish in real-life settings, boosting confidence and deepening cultural appreciation.

November brought the spotlight back to school with over 70 students performing in an unforgettable production of Grease. Across three casts and multiple shows, audiences enjoyed slick choreography, show-stopping musical numbers, and performances brimming with personality. Months of hard work paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of the entire Grease team. As the festive season arrived, our choir returned to the community stage at the Willerby Christmas Light Switch-On - a

valued tradition made even more special this year as our Year 11 students had the honour of lighting up the village.

Our Sixth Formers have also shone this term, setting high standards and showing leadership throughout school life. For Year 13, most UCAS applications are now submitted, and we wish them every success as they work toward their next steps. Of course, these are just a few highlights. From careers events and sporting competitions to visiting speakers and in-school house challenges, there has been so much to celebrate. A huge thank you to all our staff for making these opportunities possible.



Barcelona visit



Sixth Form



Apprenticeship Fair at Bishop Burton, Geography explore Humber Street and Physics at the Royal Institution.



Our Sixth Form students have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences recently, combining academic learning with practical skills and community spirit.

Year 12 students attended an Apprenticeship Fair at Bishop Burton, meeting representatives from over 50 companies, including BAE Systems and YorkWold Pig Pro. This event provided a fantastic opportunity to explore career pathways and build valuable contacts for future employment.

In **Geography**, students explored Humber Street to study its transformation from a traditional fruit and vegetable market into a vibrant redeveloped area. They also undertook fieldwork along the **Holderness Coast**, visiting **Hornsea** and **Mappleton** to investigate coastal processes and management. Using specialist equipment such as clinometers and anemometers, they collected data for their NEA projects. Another group visited **Sheffield**,

applying Human Geography theories to an urban setting and developing key analytical skills.

Year 12 **Physics** students from Hessle and Wolreton campuses enjoyed an inspiring trip to **London**, where they tackled hands-on challenges at the Science Museum and explored the rich history of Physics at the Royal Institution.

Year 13 **Psychology** students stepped into the role of forensic scientists during a practical activity, analyzing fingerprints to solve a mock crime. Their attention to detail paid off when they successfully identified the culprit, reinforcing their understanding of real-world forensic challenges.

Beyond academic pursuits, Sixth Form students completed a **First Aid** course, gaining vital life-saving skills. They also embraced the spirit of **Children in Need** with a fun **Pyjama Day**, raising awareness and showing generosity and community spirit.

These experiences highlight the breadth of opportunities available in our Sixth Form, helping students develop knowledge, practical skills, and confidence for the future.





Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year