The Hollyfield School e-bulletin
Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton, KT6 4TU
020 8339 4500

"Pupils' behaviour is exemplary, and they demonstrate exceptional attitudes to learning" Ofsted 2025

Head's line…



Dear Hollyfield Community

I hope you have all had a great week. In one of my lessons this week, my Year 13 chemists asked why the school had moved to Arbor, clearly expressing some frustration. As I said last week, we are grateful for everyone's patience and we will reach a point where it is working smoothly. We decided to move as it will save the school thousands of pounds as the functionality is far greater; before we were paying for two systems. I do recognise that there are teething problems and thank you once again for all of your support.

Next week our Year 13 students begin their mock exams. They have had a week full of preparations for these and we know they are working hard outside of lessons as well. We wish them all the very best.

Our catering team would like to offer a Christmas lunch on Thursday 10 December. Please see the festive menu on page three. If your child/children would like to take up the offer of a Christmas lunch, please ensure that there are funds available on the relevant Parentmail account(s). Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be able to have a Christmas lunch at no additional cost.

Dates for your diaries
We have Year 9 and Year 11 Parents' evenings coming up. Year 11 is on 26 November and Year 9 is on 10 December. Please note that the Year 11 evening will be an in-person event, while the Year 9 evening will be online. Appointment bookings for Year 11 go live today at 5pm and instructions on how to be can be found here.

The end of term will soon be here and as always, **we will finish early on the last day of term**, with a phased dismissal of students from 12.00. All students will have left site by 12:15. The last day of term will be a non-uniform day where students are encouraged to where clothes of a Christmas theme. The cost will be a £1 contribution, which will go to charities selected by the school council; we will keep you updated on what these are. Free school meal students can collect their food during break time.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend when it arrives.

Amy Jackson, Headteacher

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026
1 September to 18 December (Inset Day – 1-2 Sept, 30 Oct)
Half Term
19 – 29 October (inset 30/10)
Christmas Holiday
21 December - 1 January 2027
Spring Term 2027
4 January – 25 March (inset 4/1)
Half Term
15-19 February
Easter Holiday
26 March – 9 April (Bank Hol 26 & 29 Mar)
Summer Term 2027
12 April – 16 July (Bank Hol 3 & 31 May)
Half Term
31 May – 4 June

……. Stop Press…….

- 23/11 – 4/12 – Y13 Trial Exams
- 24/11 – Y11 Report Emailed Home
- 26/11 – Y11 Parent Consultation evening - 4.00pm
- 30/11 - Y11 GCSE Science Live
- 1 & 9/12 – Y10 Jack Petchey Speak out Workshops
- 7-11/12 – Y11 Photography, Textiles & Drama Practical Exam
- 9/12 – Year 13 Poems of the Decade (Friend's House, London)
- 10/12 - Y9 Parent Consultation evening - 4.00pm

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"Pupils achieve very well in their examinations. This is because the school delivers an ambitious and balanced curriculum, underpinned by the highest expectations for all pupils. This includes the popular and successful sixth form" Ofsted 2025

OTHER NOTICES

Photo Permission Preferences

Before students start at The Hollyfield School, we ask parents to provide their photo permission preference. You can submit a new preference and/or update it whenever you wish, using this QR code. Data is collected securely.

Free School Meals

Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

A small percentage of eligible students do not claim them. We email parents frequently to let them know. During the term, eligible students can claim a nutritius hot meal, drink or delicious dessert every day. If they are entitled, make sure your child is claiming theirs. If you need further assistance, please contact us.

SEN at Hollyfield

How is your child supported? Please follow this link to find out, plus discover many useful resources.

Reporting your child's absence

When reporting your child's absence from school on the dedicated absence line - 0208 339 4518 preferably before 8.30am on the morning of your child's absence from school. Please leave their name, spelling out any unusual names, year group and the reason for their absence and your details. Alternatively, you can email the school attendance@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk.

Valuables in school

The school policy and guidance with regard to pupil possessions is clear that they are brought into school at their own risk. The Hollyfield School does not accept liability for any items that may be lost, damaged or stolen. While theft is taken extremely seriously and thoroughly investigated, the school is not in a position to cover the cost of any item stolen.

Of course, with respect to the last point, steps and measures are put in place to mitigate against such circumstances, especially during PE and Games lessons, where pupils' items are locked in the changing rooms. While this is standard procedure, there may be some extenuating circumstances where this cannot always be guaranteed. Therefore, I would urge your son/daughter not to bring expensive items into school.

Medical Condition(s) and Individual Healthcare Plans

Can we please request that you complete the following medical information collection form if your child has any medical conditions, no matter how small. If your child has a new diagnosis we ask you to also complete this form even if you have already done so for a different medical condition to ensure we have the most up-to-date information. Once complete, this will form part of your child's Individual Healthcare Plan which will be sent to you for approval, the communication will come from *noreply@medicaltracker.co.uk*. Please allow emails from this address.

Changed your address/email/phone number????

If you have changed your contact details, please email the school office on office@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk stating your child's name and form and the change of details. It is important to keep these details up to date in case of an emergency. Don't forget to update your Parentmail account with your new details.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle with them to school every day, it is even more important during hot weather. Our water fountains can be used to refill bottles as necessary during break and lunch, it is not possible to drink from the fountains direct and we do not have bottles or cups to give out to students. Alternatively, bottles of water can be purchased (and refilled) in the cafeteria, please ensure your Parentmail account has enough funds to enable this.

Surbiton Hill Road Entrance for cars

If you drive/collect students to or from school the visitor's car park/Surbiton Hill Road entrance **should not be used to drop off students**. This causes congestion for people entering the site and staff access, cars travelling on Surbiton Hill Road and is potentially dangerous for pedestrians.

Dinner Money Top Up

Please ensure funds are available 24 hours before they are required when topping up your child's dinner money on Parentmail. If you add funds on the day they are to be used we will not be able to see the credit instantly until the system has processed it, therefore creating a delay in your child buying food at the canteen.

Contribution to the School Fund

Standing Order Contributions to School Fund

If you already donate to the school by standing order, please consider setting up a direct debit donation on our new platform Enthuse and cancelling your current standing order with your bank. This will maximise your donation as gift aid will be claimed automatically, and reduces administration time for the school. Links to the Enthuse donation platform for both Main School and 6th form can be found here.

All contributions received are very much appreciated and directly benefit all students within the school. We value each and every pound donated to provide a better education experience for our students.

If you would like to help contribute to the school fund to provide additional facilities to the school and students, please click here for more information. We acknowledge that not all of our parents can make a commitment on a monthly basis. Having listened to those parents we also understand that some would like to make a contribution whenever they can. A donation payment link is available in your ParentMail account. We are grateful for any contribution you can make, regardless of the amount. Every penny will be spent improving students' experiences. Like the monthly contributions, your donation will go into the school fund. It will be used in accordance with the guidance given to schools regarding parental contributions.

Open Door

Ms Jackson holds Parent Clinics on Thursday afternoon during term time. These are from 3.00pm-4.30pm for parents/carers to speak directly to her regarding any unresolved concerns/ suggestions. Please contact Louise Sutton to arrange an appointment on 0208 339 4500 or email lsutton@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk.

Christmas Lunch
10 December 2026
£3.39





Rewards System 2026

The new rewards system is designed to celebrate students who consistently embody our GO BIG character virtues and strive to be the **"best version of themselves."**

Starting this year, we will introduce **Legacy Points** and KS3 & 4 **Golden Ticket raffles** at the end of every term. These events will offer pupils the chance to win various prizes, including vouchers, experiences, and special in-school incentives like queue jump passes.

We believe that meaningful recognition helps students feel valued, fosters self-confidence, and encourages them to reach their full potential. By highlighting and rewarding commitments to our core values, we aim to further strengthen our school culture and ethos.

In developing this initiative, we have carefully considered research on motivation to strike the right balance between extrinsic and intrinsic rewards. To ensure we don't diminish intrinsic drive through an over-reliance on tangible gifts, we have determined that hosting three raffles per year provides the perfect balance.

Summary of how to get entered for the Golden Ticket Raffle

Students will continue to earn achievement points, which are now called legacy points, for going above and beyond within our school community.

Incentive	Description	Points
Achieving 50 Legacy Points	Accumulating 50 legacy points	1 raffle entry
Earning a Ticket  	**Golden Ticket:** *Every lesson a student has an opportunity to earn a Golden Ticket. Teachers are permitted to hand one Golden Ticket per day for any student they believe has demonstrated our GO BIG character virtues.*	5 Legacy points + 1 raffle entry
	Platinum Ticket: *Visitors, for example, visitors who deliver workshops etc, have an opportunity to acknowledge three pupils per visit.*	7 Legacy points + 1 raffle entry
Being a Zero Hero	*By achieving zero negative points in one half term.*	10 Legacy points + 2 raffle entries
The Legacy Builder	*Accumulate legacy points during rewards assemblies*	

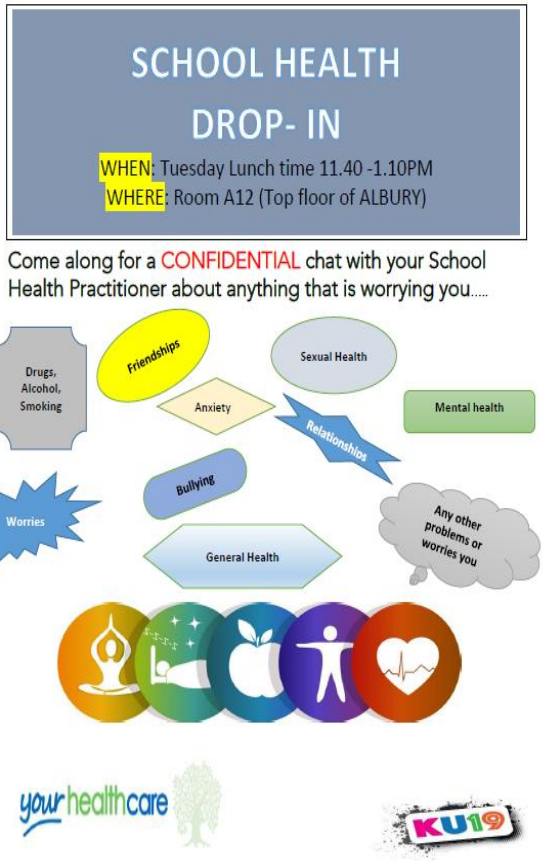
Note: The Golden and Platinum Tickets are tangible postcards, which students will be able to bring home. Please keep an eye out for these to help celebrate the success.

We look forward to celebrating these achievements with our students throughout the year.

SAFE HANDS/PASTORAL SUPPORT

Once again, for your information, the key contacts are:

School - Get in touch with the Designated Safeguarding Team
Ms Patel: spatel@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk
Mr Buckman: nbuckman@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk
Single Point of Access 020 8547 5008.





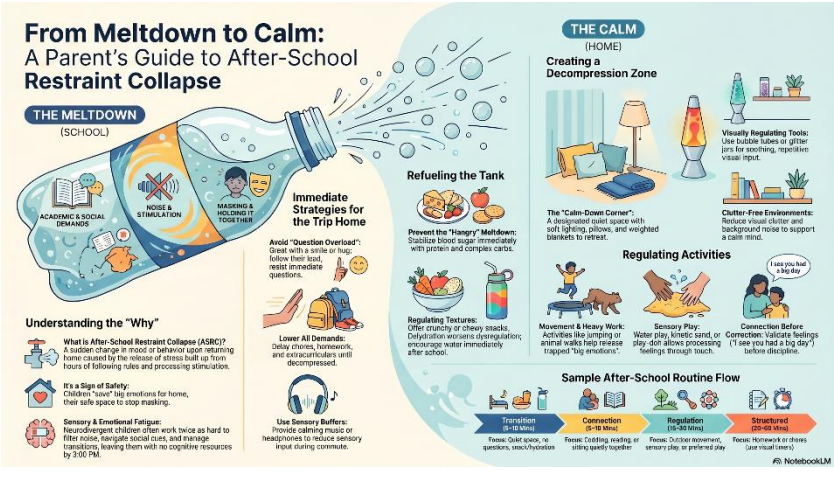
Click here to view workshops and book

Balancing the Energy Books

There is no question that there are greater demands placed on students within mainstream secondary schools compared to primary. Lesson pace, sensory overload, academic pressure, personal accountability and social masking can take a heavy toll on many young people with additional needs causing them to become exhausted and unable to contribute to activities or basic activities at home.

Spoon Theory, created by Christine Miserandino, aims to contextualise our personal energy usage that we need to get through each day. What may take one 'spoon of energy' for a neurotypical individual, such as taking public transport or getting ready in the morning, may take a neurodiverse person two or three 'spoons' leading to a deficit at the end of the day. Spoon Theory aims to identify the major energy draining activities but most importantly, the activities that can be implemented to refill their reserve throughout the day, leading to improved energy management and resilience. **Link to find out more.**

Supporting Your Child With After School Meltdowns



For further information click here

HOLLYFIELD PTA NEWS

Volunteering Opportunities

Chair/Co-Chair

We are still looking for a new PTA Chair or Co-Chairs to take over from our outgoing chairs Brynn and Hannah who stepped down this term. It may seem daunting taking on the role, but you can do this with a friend. Brynn has also offered to help the new Chair/s with Hollyfest. There is also a great team of experienced PTA parents who are ready to help organise events and support the Chair/s.

For more information, please contact ptahollyfield@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert - Wednesday 16th December

The PTA will be providing refreshments (mulled wine, mince pies etc..)

If you are able to help on the night or with organisation please get in touch



ptahollyfield@gmail.com or join the next meeting (24/11)

Christmas Trees for Sale @ Hollyfield School

November 28th & 29th

December 5th & 6th

December 12th & 13th

More details to follow



Join the PTA

We are a group of parent and carer volunteers creating fun and fundraising events that directly benefit the school. Our meetings usually take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 24th November, 7pm at The Wagon and Horses**.

Follow us on Instagram @hollyfield_pta for the latest news

Drop us an email ptahollyfield@gmail.com to find out more

Register for Easy Fundraising

Please support The Hollyfield PTA on #easyfundraising, with Christmas shopping coming up it's an easy way to donate to the PTA for free whilst you shop.

Follow this link to register and start raising some much needed funding : Select The Hollyfield School PTA, Surbiton: Easy Fundraising Hollyfield

Sherpa Tutors

We're pleased to share that the PTA has partnered with **Sherpa Tutors** as part of their fundraising programme, giving families a simple way to support our school. When you register using our referral link, the PTA earns £5 for each lesson completed by a student, up to £100 pre family. These funds are donated directly to the PTA and help support activities, resources, and events for our children.

By taking part, families can benefit from additional learning support while helping to raise valuable funds for our school community. To join and support the PTA, please sign up here. Thank you for your continued support.

(Please note: The Hollyfield School is not directly affiliated to and does not endorse specific tutor services, nor can they quality assure their services.)

THIS WEEK……..

TOP ATTENDERS

The year group with the highest overall attendance so far this year is Year 8 with a total of 95.5%. The top form group within each year this week is:

7LFI = 97.5%
8GLO = 99.0%
9MCO = 93.1%
10HDA = 96.8%
11DMI = 95.8%

Well done to all these students, keep up the excellent work.

HOUSE POINTS (to be updated in due course)

	Eagle	Falcon	Osprey
Year 7	3786	2808	3837
Year 8	3127	2826	3094
Year 9	3020	2318	3098
Year 10	2242	2867	2305
Year 11	1745	1876	3053
Total	**13920**	**12695**	**15387**

NEXT WEEK

Monday 23 November	Year 10 Assessments (all week)
	Year 13 Walking Talking Mocks (to 4 Dec)
	Year 12 Assembly – Common Room
	Year 11 Assembly (European Day of Languages) – Dining Hall
	Year 12 POLECON Trip
	Year 11 Mock Exam Results (Dining Hall) (Pd 6)
Tuesday 24 November	Year 13 Assembly – Common Room
	Year 7 Assembly (European Day of Languages) – Dining Hall
Wednesday 25 November	Year 8 Assembly (European Day of Languages) – Dining Hall
Thursday 26 November	Year 9 Assembly (European Day of Languages) – Dining Hall
	Year 11 Parents' Evening (Dining Hall) (4.00-7.00pm)
Friday 27 November	Year 10 Assembly (European Day of Languages) – Dining Hall
	Year 9 & 11 Reports Emailed Home

FORTHCOMING DATES

23 November – Year 12 POLECON Trip
23 November - Year 11 Mock Exam Results (Pd 6)
23 November - 4 December – Year 13 Trial Exams
24 November – Year 11 Report Emailed Home
26 November – Year 11 Parent Consultation evening - 4.00pm
30 November - Year 11 GCSE Science Live
1 & 9 December – Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak out Workshops

4 December – Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
7-11 December – Year 11 Photography, Textiles & Drama Practical Exam
9 December – Year 13 Poems of the Decade (Friend's House, London)
10 December - Year 9 Parent Consultation evening - 4.00pm
8 December – Year 10 Report Emailed Home
14-18 December – Year 7 & 8 Assessments
16 December - Year 12 Art & Photography Trip
16 December – Christmas Concert (6.30-10.00pm)
17 December – Carol Service (6.30-7.30pm) – St Mark's Church
18 December – Non-uniform day - £1 donation to charity
18 December – **End of Term – dismissal from 12.00pm**

21 December 2026 – 1 January 2027 – Christmas Holiday

4 January – Inset Day

LEGACY POINTS (to be updated in due course)

Legacy and behaviour points are awarded every day at Hollyfield in line with our school policy and are a fundamental part of school life. We want students to be the best versions of themselves and we explicitly teach the behaviour we want our young people to develop through our GO BIG character virtues (Good Communication / Organisation / Bouncebackability/Initiative/Gratitude). Students are therefore rewarded for when they demonstrate these character virtues either in class, around our school environment and even outside of school. The school also gives out termly prizes for great progress, engagement in learning, attendance and also contribution to school life. We also continually try to celebrate the successes of our students outside of school life and encourage all students to be proud of their successes in whatever area they come from.

Behaviour points are given to students in line with our behaviour policy. At the heart of our behaviour policy is restorative approaches which is a strategy the school uses to allow students to discuss their behaviours with one another and also key staff and to move past incidents in a non-judgemental way.

Both of the school's rewards and behaviour policies can be found on the school website and if you have any questions about them please don't hesitate to contact Miss Patel (Assistant Headteacher).

The year group weekly totals will be updated next week with Arbor.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11

The top performing forms per year group in terms of overall achievements were:

7	8	9	10	11

The top performing students from each year were:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11

TEACHING & LEARNING



CAREERS



Careers Briefing 20 November 2026
Mr Poole & Miss Corrighan (Careers team @Hollyfield)

Year 11 - Post 16 options
At this point in the year, students should be thinking seriously about their plans for next September. While many will choose to stay on at Hollyfield Sixth Form, others may be considering alternative routes.

Those who applied to Esher College before the September deadline will have heard by now whether they have been offered a place. For students looking to study elsewhere, there are still plenty of options available. Although Richmond upon Thames College, Kingston College, and NESCOT held their open evenings last week, you can still apply to them to secure a conditional offer even if you were unable to attend.

At this stage, it is essential that every student has a clear first choice alongside at least one backup option, in case their final grades do not meet the entry requirements for a particular course. Please do not leave these applications until the last minute; while these colleges do not have strict deadlines, courses fill up quickly and preference is given to early applicants.

ACM (Academy of Contemporary Music) is in Guildford and their open day is **Sun 22 November 11am** Book here They offer 5 Level 3 Diploma courses in; Music Production (Sound Tech or Creative Musician), Music Performance, Songwriting, Digital Creative Media (Including games design).

The creative industries are booming. They added £145 billion to the UK economy in 2024 and supported more than 2.4 million jobs from game design to film, music, digital media, and beyond. Growth in the creative industries has been 4 times the UK average in recent years and is a key part of the government's aims to grow the UK economy. (Sources: The Creative Industries | DCMS)

At **Access Creative College** we are celebrating and getting involved in creative careers month through organising careers fairs, masterclasses with industry and even inviting industry guests to our **upcoming open day on 28 November** to share their experience of life beyond ACC. They have courses in ***Media (Animation, Photography, Media, Graphics), Music Production and Performance, Esports and Games art and development.***

Apprenticeships

For students who do not want to continue in full-time education, it might be worth thinking about an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships are available at all ages 16+ and for some school leavers it might prove to be the right choice. The best time to start looking for apprenticeships is after Christmas for year 11 or for degree or higher apprenticeships many schemes are open now. Useful resources:

- Everything You Need To Know About Apprenticeships
- Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Listing

You can also use **Unifrog** which is our careers platform that students can use throughout their Hollyfield Journey. Log in with your HF student email address (you can also reset the password). Students can:

- Explore their post-16 or 18 options, which include college, universities, apprenticeships and career ideas
- Try the quizzes which look at your personality, interests and more to help you figure out which careers might suit you

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Parents/Carers have an important role to play, and please encourage your children to talk through their different ideas for their post-16, 18 and career options. **Talking Futures** is a great resource to inform parents and carers about the options available to their children. If parents/carers have any questions about the process, email Mr Poole: ipoole@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk

St Mary's University:
For parents and carers, we're pleased to share details of our upcoming Parents' Night Webinar on Monday 23 November 6pm, designed to support parents and carers as they help their young people prepare for university.

This evening will include a series of presentations followed by a Q&A, designed to provide an insight into the higher education journey and help you support your child in making an informed decision about their next steps. We will cover the Student Finance application and repayment process, as well as information about the support and services available to St Mary's students from our Accommodation, Disability & Dyslexia, and Careers Teams.

The Royal Veterinary College could not attend our career fair back in October but sent us a number of ideas for those interested in a career working with animals and you can find out more here: www.rvc.ac.uk/visitus

- **Biological Science Taster Course** - This one-day introduction to Biological Sciences takes place at the RVC's Camden Campus and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to experience life as a Biological Scientist student at the Royal Veterinary College. There will be insightful lectures delivered by RVC experts to learn more about our Biological Sciences courses and opportunities to get a feel for day-to-day life from Student Ambassadors.
- **Scholarship Programme** - The RVC Scholars Programme supports under-represented Year 12 students aspiring to study Veterinary Medicine at RVC. This 18-month program builds skills, confidence, and application experience, offering unique insights into RVC through on-campus events and some online sessions. Scholars participate in expert-led lectures, practical sessions, group work, animal handling, an admissions masterclass, and a zoo trip, all guided by RVC staff and Student Ambassadors. Ten students will form a supportive peer group, attending nine events in year one and eight in year two, on Saturdays at RVC's London or Hertfordshire campuses. Graduates joining RVC full-time receive a £3,000 annual scholarship.
- **Sutton Trust Summer School** - This Summer School, funded by the RVC and the Sutton Trust, is a free to attend, 5-day residential course for fifty students. The academic schedule will include lectures on a wide range of veterinary topics, conducting a research project, engaging in group-led teaching, learning practical clinical skills, and trying to solve a real-life veterinary case. Students will be allocated a Student Ambassador as a mentor to support and guide their academic and professional development during the Summer School.
- **Vet Nursing Taster Course** - This one-day introduction to Veterinary Nursing is designed to provide students with the opportunity to experience life as a veterinary nursing student at the Royal Veterinary College. There will be insightful lectures delivered by RVC experts to learn more about our Veterinary Nursing course and opportunities to get a feel for day-to-day life from Student Ambassadors.
- **Year 10 School** - The two day 2023 Year 10 Easter School will take place at our Camden Campus in London, where students will take part in lectures, practicals and Q&As with our world-leading researchers. We will focus on hands-on experiences in our labs, anatomy museum and with our animals, and they'll get the chance to meet current RVC students, other young people with a passion for animals and professionals working in a range of animal science careers.



Careers opportunities bulletin
We encourage sixth form students, parents and carers to access our **weekly Careers Opportunities bulletin** and students in year 10 and 11 can also access many of the opportunities: HF Careers opportunities bulletin 20/11/26
This includes;

- ***Work experience***
- ***Careers talks***
- ***University open days/tasters***
- ***Apprenticeships***
- ***Unifrog events and more!***

Careers talk of the week:



Careers Compass are an organisation that arrange a range of career insight talks: Careers compass
Discover the people, skills and careers behind Maclaren Racing & explore what it takes to have a career in Formula one
Monday 23 Nov 6-7pm online webinar: Careers in Formula 1 with McLaren Racing

Apprenticeship of the week:





Ready to start a career at the BBC?
Applications are open for 2027 apprenticeships across journalism, production, business, engineering, data, AI and technology. Find out more: Early careers

With opportunities across the UK and routes from **Level 2** to degree-level qualifications, you can build your skills, gain industry experience and earn a starting salary of **£24,650**. Remember to say you saw the role on Amazing Apprenticeships when applying!

Catch up on the webinar to find out more: Discover apprenticeships at the BBC Webinar

GETTING TO KNOW……..

Senior Leadership Team



Amy Jackson, Headteacher

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Hollyfield School. I joined the school in May 2020 but had to wait until September to meet most of the students and staff. I studied Chemistry at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and did my PGCE at the same institution. I began my teaching career in 2003 in Suffolk. I love teaching and especially love teaching chemistry. Over the course of my career I have held various leadership roles in science and across whole schools. Outside of school, I love playing and watching football, cycling and spending time with my two young children.



Matthew Winpenny, Senior Deputy Headteacher

I am the Senior Deputy Headteacher responsible for Raising Standards, Free School Meals and deputise for Ms Jackson when she is absent. I teach Photography, Media Studies, Sociology and have also taught ICT. A couple of interesting facts: I have 4 children and a dog and I do a bit of DJing outside of school.



Marianne O'Shea, Deputy Headteacher

I have a new role this year, leading on Personal Development. This means overseeing student leadership (including our fabulous student council), trips and visits and our wonderful extracurricular activities. I also line manage the teams who lead on careers, PSHE and first aid and have thoroughly enjoyed taking a closer look at those important areas. You will hear more from me later in the year about a new addition to the school calendar: Culture Day, which is something our students are helping me to plan and launch, and which we're all really excited about.



Sonali Patel, Deputy Headteacher

I am responsible for Behaviour and Safety. I have been teaching for 10 years and prior to starting at Hollyfield worked at a school in North London. I was also a Special Constable for both West Yorkshire and MET police. I joined the Hollyfield team 4 ½ years ago. Having grown up in East London I am a keen West Ham supporter!



Duncan Warren, Assistant Headteacher/Head of Sixth Form

I am the Head of Sixth Form and I teach Philosophy, Sociology and R.E. I love working in the sixth form- our students are wonderful and working with them everyday is inspiring. Being part of the sixth form team we get to be involved in exciting enrichment activities every week and I have travelled to New York, Washington and Paris on various trips with the students. Outside of school I am an avid Chelsea fan regularly attending games at Stamford Bridge (hopefully will be doing this again soon!). I also help to coach my son's football team and this is great way to start the weekend on a Saturday morning.



Josephine Rhodes, Assistant Headteacher

After finishing university and prior to starting my teaching career, I had a stint at the BBC and then at a regional magazine before the teaching profession called. I applied for and accepted a place at Reading University to complete my English PGCE. Since qualifying in 2006, I have worked in the boroughs of Richmond, Merton, and now Kingston-upon-Thames.

I can't believe that this year I am entering my thirteenth year at Hollyfield! I started in September 2014 as Head of English under Maggie Bailey's leadership and have witnessed a transformation that continues today, with our latest Ofsted report (May 2025) serving as a testament to the journey the school has been on.

I currently oversee the Year 7 pastoral team, manage Year 6 transition, and build relationships with local primary schools and the wider community to support recruitment and promote Hollyfield as the local school of choice. Alongside teaching English, I love to travel and eat my way through other cultures. I also enjoy running and cycling, and I am lucky enough to live on the doorstep of one of the most beautiful Royal Parks in the country



Marelise Janse Van Rensburg, Assistant Headteacher

I have been the Head of Department at Hollyfield for the last 6 years. Originally, I am from Cape Town, South Africa where I attended school and completed my degree in BEd FET Economic and Management Science at the University of Cape Peninsula. I moved to London in 2007 to experience teaching in a different country but also to explore the world for a year. I loved teaching in London too much and therefore decided to stay and to also complete my Masters in Education.

Of course, Mathematics and teaching has always been my passion, however beyond that I enjoy netball, cycling, running and swimming.

Endurance events are what I most enjoy and every year I like to set myself one. Recently I completed a Half Ironman and London Marathon, next year I am hoping to attempt a Full Ironman if all goes to plan.



Christie Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher

As the Assistant Headteacher responsible for Teaching, Learning and CPD, I am incredibly proud of the significant success we have achieved this year in embedding consistently high standards across our curriculum and within every classroom. In addition to my Teaching and Learning responsibilities, I oversee the pastoral leadership of our excellent Year 11 cohort and enjoy working with such a talented group of students. I continue to enjoy my time in the classroom, and currently have the pleasure of teaching both Mathematics and Psychology.

Governors



Vicki Jones, Chair of Governors

I work in public affairs for Youth Futures Foundation, the national What Works Centre for youth employment, with a specific focus on marginalised young people. I've got three children who all joined Hollyfield on the Performing Arts Scholarship programme and loved it! I became a governor in 2019, and this is my second year as Chair of Governors. I really value the opportunity to support the school and help play a role in ensuring that all pupils are supported and able to flourish both academically and personally.



Paul Ruth, Governor

I am currently in my seventh year of sitting on the governing board. In the time I have been here it has been a pleasure to contribute to the Hollyfield community which has changed so much in this time, and thankfully all for the better. I have two children in attendance at the school. In my professional career I work in construction on some of the large commercial and residential projects in and around London and have been lucky enough to have been involved in some interesting projects such as Lords Cricket Ground and Oxford University - I have actually sat through a lecture in a lecture hall that I was involved in the construction of when studying my MSc in Construction Law. I am a big football fan, following Liverpool, and I enjoy most sports, holidays, and spending time with family and friends. I am proud to be a member of the Hollyfield School and hope to continue this well into the future and keep helping the school to strive to reach its goals and aspirations.



Ben Russell, Governor

I have been a governor at Hollyfield since 2017 when my son started in Year 7 - it's great working with the other governors and the staff at Hollyfield to make the experience for young people ever better. We've lived in Berrylands for nearly 20 years now. I used to be a journalist covering education and then politics, but now I work in communications.



Paul Quinlan, Governor

I've been a Hollyfield governor since 2022. I enjoy working with the school's leaders and other governors, seeing the great work by staff and students and how Hollyfield continues to improve. I have two sons at the school. I have worked in HR for over 30 years and lead an employee relations team for a professional services firm. I enjoy cooking, reading and running (especially when I've finished!).



Jan Cheng, Governor

I am now in my second term as a governor and sit on the Leadership, Management and Resources Committee. My son started at the school in 2019 and is currently in Year 13. After graduating from university, I joined one of the large accountancy firms and trained as an accountant. I now work in risk management with the same employer. I've applied the skills and knowledge from my job in supporting the school as a governor. It has been a hugely rewarding experience and it's a great team to be part of. In my spare time I do a fair bit of running and cycling.



Louise Coysh

I currently work for a music venue that's part of a university. Since leaving university (a long time ago), I have enjoyed a career in the arts and cultural sector. My work and personal interests crossover, and I am committed to creating creative opportunities for communities, young people and artists to collaborate and achieve remarkable things together. I'm passionate about the role that our schools play in increasing the life chances of all children and in supporting our communities. As a former Hollyfield pupil, and now a school parent, I seized the opportunity to become governor and join the Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance (SBA) Committee to give something back to the school community.



Rachel Aukett

I moved here in 1998 and have seen my family grow up in Surbiton. I have a keen interest in schools, and languages education in particular, as a lecturer in teacher education for the past 20+ years. As governor and chair of the Quality of Education committee at Hollyfield, I do what I can to contribute positively to the continuing success of the school. So far it has been great to see how well everything is going and how committed and passionate the staff are.

One thing that might be an unexpected fact about me is that I play my flute and piccolo every year with the Central Band of the Royal British Legion, standing on Centre Court at Wimbledon, just before the men's and ladies' tennis finals.



Kerry Quarcoo, Governor

As a seasoned Adjunct Professor and Head of Maths from New York, I have over 25 years of experience in secondary schools and universities. Teaching allows me to share my passion for learning while helping students develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed both academically and in life. Outside of work, I enjoy baking and perfecting my pizza-making skills, a creative outlet that brings me as much joy as teaching.



David Miller, Staff Governor

I have worked at the school since 2010 and been Head of Physical Education since 2014. I hope that as staff governor I can help in the continued development and success of the school for both students and staff. Hollyfield is a great community school with its young people at the centre, and I am looking forward to assisting at a governor level.

Sarah Middleton, Governor

I recently became a governor at Hollyfield, having retired from the partnership of a Big Four professional services firm, where I advised clients on valuation, financial and commercial matters. I have lived in Surbiton for nearly 20 years and, with both of my children attending Hollyfield, I was keen to use my experience and newly available time to support the school and its community. Joining the governing body, where I can contribute my financial and commercial experience, felt like a perfect fit. Outside work, I am a keen marathon runner and recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro as part of a charity fundraising challenge.

Ben Jones, Governor

I am a recently appointed staff governor and am currently into my fifth year at Hollyfield, where my day job is heading up the Geography department. Alongside leading Geography, I am a Year 9 form tutor and an ECT mentor, supporting early career teachers as they develop in the profession. I am really looking forward to bringing a classroom and middle-leadership perspective to the governing board. In my spare time, I enjoy staying active, playing cricket for my local club, and reading.

Anum Saqib, Governance Professional to Governors
I am the Governance Professional to the Governors at Hollyfield, supporting the governing board and its committees with meetings, agendas, minutes and governance records. I enjoy working closely with governors and senior leaders and being part of the wider school community. My role is to help ensure that governance is well organised and that governors have the information and support they need to carry out their role effectively.

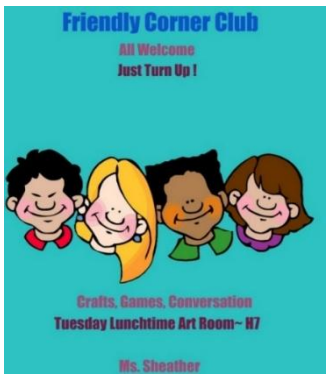
GENERAL INFORMATION

Links to Useful Information

Term Dates	Form Tutor List	Key Dates
Uniform List	The School Day Times	Menus
Extra-Curricular Activities	Student well-being and safety	Staff List and Structure
Severe Weather Procedure	Donation to School Fund	

Important reminders for PE clubs:
- students receive 1 achievement point for attending
- clubs are free and no pre sign is required
- clubs at the school field will have a coach to drop them off and pick them up or students can make their own way home using public transport
- PE kit is not required for clubs during lunchtime
- For after school clubs, students should bring PE kit to get changed after 3.05pm unless they are already wearing their PE kit for their PE lesson that day
- If a student has a repair, they need to attend the repair as the priority.

Relaxing Lunchtime Club on Tuesday for Arts, Crafts, games and friendly conversation in the upstairs Art Room- H7.



The theme of Spring time this term is to create your own Bird Art and Spring themed decorated Masks, as well as relaxing colouring, painting and games.

All are welcome!

LOCAL INFORMATION

Resilience in Children
If you are interested in further reading around building resilience in children this article is worth a read.

https://cmom.org/press/the-british-psycological-society-five-ways-to-boost-resilience-in-children/

Kooth
Kooth is an online crisis messenger service that Children and young people can access for free online mental health support with a professional counsellor - www.Kooth.com.

Mental Health Resource sites
- Mind in Kingston: run daily activities on zoom. Email RachelDykins@mindinkingston.org.uk for details.
- Childline: information and advice on a range of topics including feelings, relationships, family and schools. Childline is there to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. Call: 0800 1111.

- Anna Freud Centre: 90 resources and strategies https://www.annafreud.org/selfcare/.
- Samaritans: Samaritans a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way, about whatever's getting to you. Call: 116 123.
- Shout - Shout is the UK's first free 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. Text Shout to 85258.
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: We are a team of highly-trained, female advisers. We won't judge you or tell you what to do; we are here to listen. Call: 0808 2000 247/online chat.

Information for adults

Young Minds - Parents Helpline - Worried about a child or young person's behaviour or mental health? Call the free helpline for confidential, expert advice. For more information visit: www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/. Call 0808 802 5544.

LOCAL SERVICES

(Please note: Hollyfield School is not affiliated to and does not endorse any specific independent service/activities held outside of school, nor can we quality assure their services.)

Click here to view organisations who offer a range of services to local families.

