

Hollies Herald

Spring 2016



"Determined to Succeed"

This term's theme: Changes and Chances

Hollies Herald Easter 2016 Headteacher Update

Hello to all parents and carers. Welcome to the Easter edition of the Hollies Herald. I hope you find the latest edition of the Herald an interesting read.

Since Christmas we have been reviewing many of the processes at the Hollies in order to investigate what improvements we can make. These have let us to make or plan changes in some areas such as:

- ⇒ Trialling new pupil behaviour tracking systems which will allow us to gather far more information on pupil behaviour and to set individual behaviour targets. The new system will also allow us to reward good behaviour, and after Easter to provide a weekly update to parents/carers on pupil behaviour and attendance.
- ⇒ Offering short stay behaviour change courses for pupils in mainstream schools in Stafford and South Staffs Districts. The aim of this is to reduce the numbers of pupils who are permanently excluded in these Districts, in order to allow the Hollies to begin to use our resources more effectively to keep pupils in their mainstream settings and to better support current Hollies pupils when they rejoin mainstream schools.
- ⇒ Actively seeking to reduce the average stay of pupils at the Hollies to ensure we return to our remit as a 'Short Stay School' providing high quality interim education for a short period before entry into another school.
- ⇒ Reviewing the money spent on our offsite provision to make sure we are increasingly choosing provision which provides better outcomes for our pupils.
- ⇒ Reviewing the effectiveness of how we spend the Pupil Premium funding we receive for pupils considered disadvantaged by the Government. This funding is designed to close the gap between outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and other pupils. From September we aim to have clear closing the gap' action plans for each disadvantaged child.
- ⇒ Investing in the introduction of work experience placements for the majority of our Year 11 pupils during the Autumn term each year. We have trialled this with some current Year 11 pupils.
- ⇒ Enhancing the use of the 'Directions' Behaviour Change Course in our curriculum from September and to share good practice in this area with our colleagues in mainstream schools.
- ⇒ Reviewing our attendance policy and introducing attendance action plans for pupils who are persistently absent (attending less than 85% of timetabled sessions).
- ⇒ Introducing weekly homework (independent learning) from Easter 2016.
- ⇒ Bringing an additional classroom into use from February 2016 and creating more communal and assembly space during Summer Term 2016. We will also build a new corridor to prevent the necessity of walking through a classroom to access other rooms at the Hollies.

The final improvement listed above will require building conversion work at the Hollies. We are hoping to schedule this for completion during the Summer holidays. If this work is not completed to schedule, leaving the site unsafe for pupils, I will inform parents/carers at once via the text messaging service we introduced earlier this year.

Alan Buckley—Headteacher

Diary Dates:
2015-2016

Easter Holidays: School breaks up at 12.30pm on Thursday 24 March 2016. School reopens at 8.45am on Monday 11 April 2016.

Mayday Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2016

www.holliesschool.staffs.sch.uk

A changed role for Miss Lockett



I am delighted to be writing to you to introduce myself as the new Deputy Head Teacher of the Hollies.

As many of you will know, I have been at the Hollies for the past 3 years, when I joined in 2013 as the Head of Maths. It was a role that I very much enjoyed but now I am making another move within school structure.

I am passionate about The Hollies and feel extremely proud to be its new Deputy Head Teacher. In doing so I look forward to working very closely with the management committee, teachers, parents and pupils to build upon the success that the school has already gained. Together we will take the school forward in the next phase of its history and development.

Mr Buckley and I intend to ensure that The Hollies continues with the same ethos, traditions and friendly atmosphere that it has built up for as long as I have worked here.

It is my belief that every pupil should have the opportunity, indeed chance, to be the best they can be – to enjoy their schooling and achieve as well as they can possibly do. Learning is for life and we aim to give our pupils the best skills to equip them for life beyond the Hollies. In order to do that we need to ensure that every child is attaining and achieving and making the best progress they can while they are here.

This is my new role and I relish the new opportunities and responsibilities that it brings.

Miss Lockett -Deputy Head Teacher

What would you expect to happen?

Look at the situations below and describe what you think might happen in each case:

1. The sales of ice creams as the temperature rises during the summer.
2. The value of a mobile phone as it gets older.
3. The amount you'll get in a maths test the further you live from school.

The new Duke of Edinburgh's Award is in full swing here at The Hollies!



Since starting last December, our five Year 11 candidates have been working away on completing their Bronze Award.

At present they have completed their Skills sections, which included cooking, chess and table tennis, and they are now focusing on a group activity of indoor climbing for their Physical section.



Each week the students have been going to Wolf Mountain, an indoor climbing centre in Wolverhampton, to complete their Bronze and Silver Climbing Skills award.

So far the students have been taught how to use harnesses, ropes and climbing safety procedures, allowing them to climb and boulder different graded walls at the centre.

So what's on the agenda next for our candidates? The students have already started planning a charity event for their Voluntary section of the D of E Award, which we hope will take place after Easter holidays. After that they will be starting their training ready for their Expedition in the summer, a major element of D of E.



These are exciting and challenging projects which again are giving our pupils at The Hollies changes and chances. We will keep you posted!

Mr Nation-DofE Co-ordinator at The Hollies

Changes and Chances in the Maths Curriculum

In Year 10 maths lesson pupils have been studying scatter graphs as part of Data Handling in GCSE. Before introducing the idea of correlation (how well different things match up to each other), we discussed what pupils would expect to happen in the three events given below. At the end of the lesson students then had to state the proper correlation for each statement. The initial discussion helped with students understanding of correlation and allowed for them to quickly identify if it is positive, negative or no correlation.

Why not try this for yourself?

Miss Lovell

What is the correlation?

1. The sales of ice creams as the temperature rises during the summer.
2. The value of a mobile phone as it gets older.
3. The amount you'll get in a maths test the further you live from school.

Time for a Change

I couldn't quite believe my luck when I spotted an advert for Head of English at The Hollies. Yes – it was still a teaching job after 21 years in a mainstream school but this time it would be a job that mattered more than ever. This job meant that I would be able to work with young people who had left mainstream education for any number of reasons; I would be able to work with young people who might need a kind word, a friendly smile and some understanding.

Suddenly the excitement and enjoyment of working with young people came flooding back. It was like travelling back in time to 21 years ago as a bright-eyed newly qualified teacher. Here was a chance for a change. It would be a challenge and it would be difficult but the time had arrived.

The job that would change my teaching career was mine! I've now been at The Hollies for almost a term – 12 school weeks (21 if you re-arrange the numbers...!) and I'm starting to settle in to working here. There's a lot to do, there's a huge amount to learn and there are bound to be obstacles along the way but I wouldn't change this for anything.

Mrs Z Millinchip

Hollies Cookery Corner

A firm favourite with pupils at The Hollies is our Breakfast Burrito. We have found that some pupils are unable to eat bacon, or simply don't like it, so in cases like these we improvise the recipe by changing the bacon to chicken.

Breakfast is supposed to be the most important meal of the day to set you up for the day ahead. Try this recipe for a change - we are sure you will love it!

Method

- 1) Preheat the grill. Cook the bacon until it is crispy
- 2) Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry potatoes until they are crispy all over
- 3) Whisk the egg with the cream and season well. Mix the ketchup with the smoked paprika then put to one side for later.
- 4) Once the bacon and potatoes are ready, make the scrambled eggs. Heat the butter in the frying pan and cook the egg mixture over a lot heat until they are barely cooked and still quite loose. At the same time, lay out the tortillas and put the bacon in the middle. Top each with potatoes, still keeping in the middle, then add a smear of the spicy ketchup. Finish each by topping with the scrambled eggs and cheese. **Remember to keep the filling in a compact rectangle down the middle of the tortilla.**
- 5) To make the burritos, tuck the sides in over the filling, then roll the long top and bottom edges up and over the filling making a parcel. Press down gently.
- 6) Heat a little oil in a clean frying pan. Put the burrito seam-side down in the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes over a medium heat, until golden brown and crispy. Press down with a spatula to seal the joins. Turn carefully and cook for 2-3 minutes.
- 7) Serve the burrito sliced in half on the diagonal, with extra spicy ketchup if desired.

Breakfast Burrito

2 rashers bacon
1 tbsp oil
50 g cooked, cold potatoes cut into 1cm cubes
1 egg
1 dessert spoon double cream
Salt and pepper
2 tbsp tomato ketchup
½ tsp smoked paprika
½ tbsp butter
1 tortilla wrap
50 g grated cheese

