

UNIVERSITY ACADEMY  
HOLBEACH



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ACADEMY TRUST

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# NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY ACADEMY  
HOLBEACH

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## THIS ISSUE

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# Principal's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

We had a very busy term during which pupils engaged in an array of activities. I should like to thank pupils for their efforts, contributions and kind words for the festive break and I hope they all had a nice time.

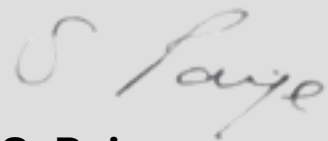
Rewards Assemblies - Well done to everyone who received a certificate of achievement for their excellence in lessons and awards for praise points. Rewards for attendance will be presented when we return after the Christmas break.

Year 11 Mock Exams - I should like to commend Year 11 pupils on their conduct during the mock examinations. This continued focus will help to prepare them for future progress tests and the summer examinations. It has been very encouraging to hear pupils talk about their achievements as they learn about their results and performance in the exams. I had the pleasure of seeing some excellent practical coursework for Textiles, Graphics, Food and Art. Pupils can take pride in their efforts and aspirations.

Air Ambulance Fundraising - A huge 'well done' to our Business learners who raised a remarkable £3, 513.89 to support the charity. They worked with determination and creativity planning a range of fundraising activities and can take great pride in their efforts.

Year 8 Progress Evening - Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> - We look forward to meeting with you online to discuss your child's progress. Details for the evening and how to log in to School Cloud have been sent to you.

School Uniform - We take pride in our uniform and pupils have been reminded of the expectations regarding the wearing of blazers and jumpers. Hoodies are not part of our uniform. Girls are expected to wear a suitable length skirt or trousers. The wearing of leggings is not permitted.



**S. Paige**

## Theme of the Week

**Celebrations – Christmas and Hanukkah**

**“A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.” – James Keller**

## FORTHCOMING DATES

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**Back To School**  
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Year 8 Parents' Evening**  
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**Year 9 Parents' Evening**  
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

**End of Term**  
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Attendance Target:**  
**97%**



# Christingle

The Academy made its annual visit to All Saints' Church, Holbeach for the Y7 Christingle Service on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The whole of Year 7, plus musicians and readers, walked to the church for the service, which included musical performances from the Year 10 GCSE Music group, Mash Up, a Piano solo and Chamber Choir, readings given by representatives of each Year 7 tutor group, and a drama presentation.

In the morning, pupils spent time in their tutor groups exploring the meaning behind the Christingle tradition and also taking time to reflect upon the meaning of Christmas and consider for what they should be grateful. Pupils made their own Christingles, which consist of an orange with a red ribbon around it, four cocktail sticks with sweets and a candle. Pupils also rehearsed two songs, *Shine Jesus Shine* and *Love Shine A Light*, which they then sang during the service.

The service was attended by families of Year 7 as well and the was an extremely uplifting experience. The sound of all the pupils singing the songs was particularly moving and, if you would like to hear an extract of their voices, please follow this link: <https://youtu.be/c6CW7pDTvT0>





# Inspiring Futures at the School Careers Fair

The Academy hosted its annual Careers Fair, an exciting and informative event designed to help students explore future pathways and make informed decisions about life beyond the classroom. The fair brought together a wide range of professionals, colleges, universities, and training providers, all eager to share their experiences and advice with students.

The Sports Hall was transformed into a vibrant hub of activity, with stalls representing careers in healthcare, engineering, business, agrifood, the creative industries, public services, and more. From apprenticeships and university degrees to vocational training, the fair highlighted that there is no single route to success, but many pathways suited to different interests and strengths.

Students from all year groups attended the event, giving them the opportunity to ask questions, collect information, and gain a clearer understanding of what various careers involve. Many students found it particularly valuable to speak directly with professionals currently working in their fields of interest, as they were able to learn about day-to-day responsibilities, required qualifications, and future career prospects.

Teachers were on hand to support students, helping them reflect on what they had learned and how it linked to their personal goals. For many students, the fair helped to spark new ambitions, while for others it reinforced existing plans and provided reassurance about the steps needed to achieve them.

Overall, the Careers Fair was a great success and an invaluable experience for everyone involved. It encouraged students to think confidently about their futures and reminded them that with the right information, guidance, and determination, they can aim high and work towards careers that inspire and motivate them. We would like to thank all the visitors who contributed to making the event both engaging and memorable.



# A Christmas Story...

Year 9 Debate Teams - Using Ethos, Pathos, Logos and AFOREST, two Year 9 top media teams went head-to-head in a Christmas themed classroom debate. The question posed to the house was: Father Christmas - Real or Not? Students created their own props, costumes and used technology to support their arguments. Each team delivered their points politely, and each team used persuasive techniques effectively to ensure they were convincing and persuasive. Bobby J's team (Father Christmas is not real), were experts in Logos and Ethos, whilst Jaimie's team were experts in Pathos.



# Social Studies Rap

Tristan, a pupil in Year 8, wrote and performed this rap based on the theme of Anti-Cyber-Bullying, which his tutor group had been exploring in their Social Studies lesson.

We hope you enjoy it!

Hey, Man!  
Keep yourself private,  
Privacy is infinite.  
You're just a kid,  
Don't be outbid.  
Bullying is bad,  
It makes you mad.  
Don't be tried,  
Or you'll be verbally fried.  
Shoot the text,  
So good things come next.  
Get it reported,  
For a positive appointment.  
Don't retaliate,  
Report the date.  
Uncover the evidence,  
For just 5 pence.  
Block the bully,  
If they're mocking your mullet.  
So come on man,  
Don't be outran!



# Christmas Concert



The musicians of school spent all of Tuesday rehearsing and performing at All Saints' Church, giving the Academy's annual Christmas Concert. A number of the Academy's ensembles performed festive music, including Pop Choir, Chamber Choir, Mash Up, Orchestra, Y10 Musicians and the Staff Band! The concert also included readings and carols and was a lovely way to begin the festive season.



# Notes from the Glasshouse

## Eco Team

Eco Team added a roof to their Hedgehog Home this week and then enjoyed celebrating Tree Dressing Day. This tradition dates back hundreds of years and helps remind people of the importance of trees. The team chose the large apple tree in our nature area and decorated it with ribbons and strips of material. This activity goes towards the teams efforts to achieve the Platinum Green Tree Schools Award from The Woodland Trust. The teams also learned about making beeswax wraps, which are an eco-friendly alternative to clingfilm. This activity goes towards the teams other work for Eco Schools and The Lincolnshire Show Schools' Challenge.



## Gardening Club

Gardening Club has begun to explore soil science, as part of their entry into The Lincolnshire Show Schools' Challenge and they also checked on all of their seedlings and bulbs. Lots of shoots are already coming through and the group is excited to see what they can grow in the new year.



# Business Department Pupils Raise Funds for Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance



Three groups of students raised money for the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance in their Heli-Raiser challenge 2025. The students were from the A Level And T Level Business classes. They raised £3513.89 between three teams over that last 6 weeks. Activities have included car washing, raffles, cake sales and 'Name the Bear'. Our students should be very proud of each other in their achievement. We can't wait to take part next year!