

Report from Holbrook High School

As Headteacher of Holbrook High School I would like to take this opportunity to present this report to the AGM as a means of updating the council of the school's achievements over the past year.

Examination results at the end of Year 11 continue to be well above the national average. At GCSE 66% of the entire year group achieved five or more A* to C grades. This is the second best set of results the school has ever achieved. These results have enabled our pupils to go on to further education in local sixth forms, colleges or indeed straight into employment with training. More significantly it showed that all our pupils made significant progress from their Key Stage 3 results two years earlier. 99.5% of all entries were successful and 97% of all the students achieved 5 or more GCSE passes.

Much publicity has been centred on schools manipulating their entry policy as well as offering course choices so as to achieve a better position in the league tables. At Holbrook all pupils are encouraged to follow a modern language course and a broad and balanced curriculum rather than one based around courses that will improve our league table position. From September 2006 Language Teaching is in place in all our feeder Primary Schools starting in Year 3, coordinated by a teacher from our school. From September 2007 we are planning to extend provision at Holbrook High to include Spanish in addition to French and German. Longer term it is hoped to organize conversation classes for members of the local community outside of school hours.

In November we held a formal 'Presentation Evening' to celebrate the achievements of our leavers along with a number of special awards to pupils still at the school. The evening was a great success with many positive comments from all involved, including our guest speaker Richard Moreton from the Haven Gateway Partnership who stressed to our young people the wide range of employment opportunities available within our local area, especially in the maritime industry. We will be holding our next presentation evening in November 2007 and I would welcome sponsorship from the parish councils for any of the awards. (It only costs £30).

November also saw the school production of 'Goddess' which ran over three nights to great acclaim from the audience of parents, friends and the local community. This production, written by our very own Head of Drama, Karl Easthope, was a huge success and involved a large number of pupils and staff who gave up many hours for rehearsals.

The Peninsula Sports Centre officially opened on Friday January 19th with a large number of invited guests attending the ceremony. We were delighted that a former pupil, Sally Kaznica, was able to accept our invitation to open the centre. Sally represents Great Britain at Basketball and recently won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games whilst representing England. We were very pleased that Sally was able to stay at school for the entire day and she spent time with all year groups.

Membership of our fitness gym has now risen to 200 and increased use is being made of the Sports Hall. I would encourage any member of the community who has not visited

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this exciting new facility to do so. The Sports Centre is open seven days a week: 7 to 10pm weekdays and 8am to 4pm at weekends. Guided tours can be arranged anytime during the day by contacting the centre directly on 01473 328015.

In September 2006 we officially became a specialist Languages and Humanities school. This was the result of hard work by a wide range of people including staff, pupils, governors, local community groups as well as key business partners and many involved were able to attend our official launch in September. We chose to celebrate our success with a balloon launch and received over 30 replies from France and Belgium - the furthest balloon reached Montpellier in southern France!

As part of achieving specialist status, we received a small amount of additional funding from the Government for a capital project to enhance our facilities. After digging deep we were able to add some of our own capital to build a new Learning Resource Centre, adjacent to the new sports centre, to replace our old library. The Learning Resource Centre will formally be opened later this term and my hope is that along with the new sports centre this additional development will enable the school to become a hub for the wider community allowing access outside of school hours in line with the government's Extended Schools agenda.

The Peninsula Learning Partnership, formed in 2005, has recently completed an audit of learning facilities within the Peninsula and is keen to move forward on a number of recommendations to promote learning for adults across the Peninsula. It is planned to hold an 'Open Event' later this year to provide more information.

Holbrook High has for many years hosted an Over 60's lunch on Tuesdays during the term time. This continues to be a popular weekly event which any member of the local community is welcome to attend and sample the delights of a nourishing school meal at very favourable price.

Finally I welcome the opportunity to show members of the local community around the school during the school day, especially in the light of our new facilities, all I ask is that you contact Mrs Russell, via the school office, so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged.

Rob Sherington
Headteacher