23 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Half Term Update

As we come to the end of our first half-term, I cannot believe how quickly the time has flown by! Our Year 7 students have settled in exceptionally well, and I have been very impressed by their efforts in lessons, engagement with enrichment opportunities and wonderful manners around the school. They have embraced our school mantra of being 'respectful' and should be very proud of the positive start they have made. I have loved getting to know so many of them.

Similarly, Year 11 have made a positive start to their final year. It has been fantastic to see students attending intervention sessions and talking to me about their revision in preparation for their mock examinations after half-term. It is vital that they complete some revision over the coming week, while also making sure they enjoy a few days of well-deserved rest and relaxation.

We have also welcomed a range of post-16 providers into school to speak to our Year 11 students ahead of their applications. These sessions have provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore the options available to them, ask questions and begin making informed decisions about their next steps beyond South Axholme. We are proud of our strong careers offer, and we will continue to support them throughout this process to ensure they feel confident and well prepared for the opportunities ahead.

A well done must also go to our Year 10 students, who have made a positive start to their GCSE courses. It has been pleasing to see them embracing the challenges of their studies and beginning this important stage of their education with enthusiasm and commitment. We also look forward to starting discussions with our Year 9 students about the options process next half-term, helping them to make informed decisions about the subjects they wish to study as they move into Key Stage 4.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent parents' evening, and for the hugely positive feedback received through our questionnaires. These questionnaires will be made available after every parents' evening, alongside the relaunch of my Principal's Café**.** As always, my commitment is that we will listen to your views and continually look for ways to improve.

In response to the feedback you shared with me last year, we have made a number of positive changes. We have revamped our assessment system to make it easier for parents and carers to navigate, strengthened staffing in key areas and reintroduced our house system. Every student now belongs to a house represented by an important historical figure from Lincolnshire. Many of you told me how proud you were to have been part of this tradition during your own time at South Axholme, and it has been wonderful to see students across all year groups embracing the range of house competitions on offer. We look forward to expanding these opportunities and encouraging even more students to get involved as the year progresses.

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We are also incredibly proud of our students who have represented the school in our sports teams, as well as everyone who contributed to raising money for local charities through our 35th Sponsored Walk. These are important parts of school life and reflect the strong sense of community that so many of you highlighted in your feedback last year.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Stuart Wilks as he comes to the end of his term as Chair of Governors. Stuart has been an unwavering source of support to me during my time as Principal, just as he has been to several Principals before me. His deep commitment to South Axholme and our wider community is clear for all to see, and I am delighted that he will continue to serve on the Governing Board, albeit in a different capacity.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Chair of Governors, Oliver Smith. Oliver brings a wealth of experience from working directly in education, and I am confident that he will provide both valuable support and constructive challenge as we continue to strive for the very best for our students, staff and wider school community.

Safeguarding remains our highest priority.

If you have any concerns during the holidays, you can contact:

- North Lincolnshire Children's Single Point of Contact (SPOC): 01724 296500
- Adult Support Team: 01724 297000
- Children's Out-of-Hours Service: 01724 296555
- Police non-emergency: 101

If you need to contact the Academy during the break, please email admin@southaxholme-iet.co.uk. Please note, however, the normal 48 hours reply policy will not stand over the holiday with the email checked only periodically during this period. We will respond to any non - safeguarding concerns on our return.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming our students back refreshed and ready for the next half-term.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Hamilton
Principal