



HBK Update, Friday 15 March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's Friday update! Another week where our amazing students have had lots of opportunities to showcase their talents. From musical exploits to robotics competitions and civil engineering. With lots more planned before the Easter holidays, there's lots to look forward to and get involved with!

Mobile Phone Consultation - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal and Mr Pape, Assistant Principal

Following on from the message about the new DfE guidance on mobile phones, we would appreciate if you could provide some feedback on the below short survey by 4pm on Friday 22 March 2024. We spoke to students about this matter in assemblies this week and are asking both them and staff to also feed back their views.

The first question is about how best to prohibit the use of mobile phones using the four options given to schools by the DfE. In order to then iron out the finer details of the new policy, we are asking for feedback on key considerations to take into account in terms of learning, safety and wellbeing. These three questions are optional so please just answer any where you have ideas you would like us to consider.

<https://forms.office.com/e/52hHQ4yijy>

The senior leadership team will be discussing the feedback after Easter and will continue to communicate any changes made to the policy.

If you would like to read the DfE guidance on prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools, you can find it here:

[Mobile phones in schools - February 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118881/mobile_phones_in_schools_-_february_2024.pdf)

Easter School - message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

All letters with Easter School places have been sent out this week for both Year 10 and 11. Any problems, please let Mrs Bennett know sbennett@hbk.acesmat.uk. Places are now closed as most sessions are full.

A plea for school blazers - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

If you have any school blazers that your children have grown out of we would be very grateful if you would be willing to donate them to the school to add to our loan stock. You can do this either by dropping them off at our main reception or through asking your child to bring the blazer to the KS3 or KS4 Pastoral Office.

Equally, we are having to loan more blazers than usual at the moment so please can you ensure your child is in full school uniform before they set off for school where possible.

Year 11 Trial Exam Results – message from David Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

All of our Year 11 students sat a second set of trial exams recently in English Literature, Maths and Science. The results of these are being released to students in lessons once the papers have been marked and moderated. Some students will already have had some results returned to them so please ask your child how well they got on in these exams.

Sixth Form update – message from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

It's been a busy couple of weeks in the Sixth Form. Six Year 12 students have entered the race to become our next Head Students. They have undertaken a gruelling process, which includes a whole student vote (Years 7-11), hustings with the Sixth Form and a panel interview.

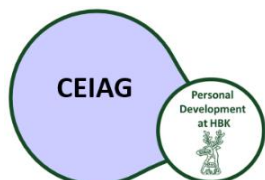
The results will be publicised next week, but we would like to say 'Congratulations' to all who have taken part - the field this year has been very strong! Mrs Black and Mr Burton are now in the process of interviewing the students who would like to be Deputy Head Students. Good luck to all!

Year 13s have had their second set of mock examinations in the last week. I am resending our [Parent Handbook](#) to Year 13 Parents and Carers; this includes some handy information about how to support your child in the last few weeks before the final exams.

Year 12 exams are approaching quickly, more information about how to support and guide your child will follow.

Finally, please see attached the latest edition of Open House - our Sixth Form magazine which is written and edited by our wonderful magazine team, with the help of Mr Lloyd: [Open House – issue 4](#).

Careers in Law – message from Mr O'Shaughnessy, CEIAG Lead and Teacher of Business Studies



The CEIAG Team were delighted to virtually welcome two working solicitors from Lewis Silkin LLP to help and advise a number of our interested Year 12 students. The session covered - what is a legal career, difference between solicitor and barrister, careers pathways, a variety of roles in a legal firm, why become a legal professional, role of AI, a day in the life of a solicitor, diversity and inclusion.

The information and advice covered will be extremely helpful to the students going forward and we will be very keen to repeat in the future. We are very grateful to Beth and Laetitia from Silkin LLP for their valuable insights.

Pawfect Tail! – message from Mr O'Shaughnessy, CEIAG Lead and Teacher of Business Studies



Our Business and Finance department were delighted to share the stunning success of one of our budding entrepreneurs recently at the local Marriot Hotel. Auguste M with her Mum were awarded a Bronze Prize and a £1,000 grant in the local 'BIPC Jumpstart' competition. 'BIPC Jumpstart helps make dreams take flight for entrepreneurs who are passionate about turning innovative ideas into a thriving business'.

The journey started during Covid when the family added a rescue cat Victor to their family, Victor quickly became a much-loved pet and a great help in dealing with the pressures of the lockdowns. As anyone who shares their life with a cat will know, there can be an issue of cats and furniture destruction, so to overcome this Auguste designed, developed and built a scratch box/safe space for Victor, which he took to instantly. Others saw the magnificent new dwelling and the complete reduction in furniture damage and asked Auguste to make them one - a business idea was born!

The products Auguste makes are produced from recycled and 100% sustainable materials, therefore cutting the carbon footprint involved in production. We are extremely proud of Auguste and look forward to her continued success.

HBK Music Festival Finale – message from Mrs Cooke, 2nd in Music Department



If music be the food of love, this year's HBK Music Festival had it in spades! All our students were amazing and the adjudicators had a tough task narrowing it down – with parents commenting on how professional all of the students' performances were. Students competed for a place in the final over three days with the finals in the PAC on Wednesday night.

First place: Tia L, Year 13, who sang an audition piece, Breathe, from the film In The Heights

Second place: Jay W, Year 12, for his solo performance of Razzle Dazzle

Third place: Finley P, Year 7, with a performance of Where is Love?

Highly commended: Jodie F, Year 10; Alissa P, Year 10; Matthew G, Year 8; Thomas B, Year 7; Nathan P, Year 12; Keir I, Year 12!

Well done to all our students!

CityZen 2023 – message from Mr Jack, Joint Head of Physics

Over 40 of our A-Level Physics students took part in the Institute of Civil Engineers CityZen 2023 competition this year. This week we heard the results and Hinchingsbrooke School reached the final round of judging. The judging team said “we’ve been blown away by the hard work and enthusiasm which students put into the competition tasks.” The competition was organised by Mr Jack who was delighted with this year’s performance. Congratulations to all of the students involved!

Hinchingsbrooke Robotics Team (the Robodeers!) – message from Mr Pettit, Learning Consultant - ACES



On Tuesday this week, our Hinchingsbrooke robotics team (the Robodeers!) competed in the **regional qualifying robotics tournament** as part of the international Teams First Challenge.

Blake D, Omar C, Thomas L and Joel K spent the day on the Alconbury RAF base, battling teams from across Cambridgeshire as they built, coded and drove their robot (Stephen!) in the arena.

All four students represented the school immaculately. Having started with somewhat of a reputation as the ‘underdogs’, our students rose through the leaderboard, and ended the day as high scorers.

The event is underpinned by an ethos of problem solving, resilience, and the development of engineers of the future. This is, quite rightly, the focus of the event and I am proud to say that the Robodeers were awarded the prestigious **golden motivate trophy** for their engineering approach, their ability to adapt under pressure, and for their approach to collaborative science as a whole.

As the robot club goes from strength to strength, our next step will be to extend this fantastic experience to younger students. Who knows, one day we could be introducing our Hinchingsbrooke robot to the crowd at the world finals!

GCSEPod update – 15 March 2024 – from Mrs Gratton, Head of Maths



Our students have almost answered **100,000** questions using the Check and Challenge option on GCSEPod! This is a fantastic statistic, including the **1000s** of pods watched and assignments handed in. The end of term competition has one more week, so please do encourage your child to login and make the most out of this resource. They might even win one of the many individual prizes, contribute to their tutor group prize and their House prize.



We have a culture of self-quizzing at Hinchingsbrooke, knowing that learning is more secure when it's tested and regularly revisited later on. GCSEPod is perfectly aligned to this philosophy and there's something for everyone. Please do encourage your child to take part and benefit from this platform. The parent toolkit can be found by following the link below.

<https://www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net/page/?title=GCSEPod&pid=1005>

Each fortnight we look to see which students are leading the way in each year group in regard to watching GCSE pods and completing Check and Challenges.

I am delighted to share the following names:

Year 7: A Singh & S Machhe

Year 8: A Vardhi & A Upadhyay

Year 9: A Gopinath, T Hemingway-Storey, E Kavanci & R McElhone

Year 10: A Cook, R Sousa Vieira & S Elliott

Year 11: A Gopinath, M Masood, E Carreau & K Pool

Congratulations to these students and all those who continue to work hard!

Vacancies at HBK

Please look at the ACES website for vacancies at HBK and other opportunities across the Trust:

[ACES Academies Trust - Vacancies](#)

We are HBK!