



Pupil Premium Newsletter



Dear All,

Welcome to this term's Pupil Premium update. There has been a LOT going on this term, and there are now new members of the pupil premium team too! Hopefully the next few pages will give you a flavour of all we have been doing, a taste of what is to come as well as some advice regarding parenting teenagers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

Anna Nightingale, Vice Principal & The Amazing PP Team



Christmas Holiday Voucher Scheme

Cambridge County Council will once again be running a holiday voucher scheme for the Christmas holidays. For each eligible pupil, they will be issuing a £30 supermarket voucher. Eligibility remains the same as in previous rounds including support for post 16 bursary students. Every eligible pupil will receive their voucher by the end of the day on **Saturday 16th December**.

Please find a letter and frequently asked questions below:

[Parent Letter \(CCC\)](#)

[FAQ Parents – October Term Holiday Voucher Scheme CCC](#)

Please contact us if:

- You are a family who have split parenting arrangements over the holiday and wish to share the voucher
- Your child receives a Sixth Form bursary and is NOT free school meals if you wish to receive a voucher
- You are struggling and would benefit from the £30 food voucher (CCC will try their best to help and we will pass your information on to them, and they make the decision)

We will need this information by **Tuesday 12th December** at the latest as announced in Friday's parentmail.

Please also note that:

- We do not provide vouchers for children in foster care. Their foster carers receive allowances that support the holidays.

Cambridge County Council will be providing cover during the holidays for any voucher queries – parents need to email winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.



Services Round-Up



At the start of the academic year, when the weather was still lovely and warm, it was great to welcome so many services families to what we hope will be an annual event – the services BBQ. Whilst we cooked up a storm on the BBQ and saw it devoured by the teenagers', families also had the opportunity to meet and get to know one another. Once most of the food had been consumed, the polite discussions gave way to out and out competition! The rounders equipment was set up and the teams were selected – Army vs Airforce. It was a tense match with lots of claims of cheating – but in the end the winner of the evening was camaraderie and good fun! We look forward to round 2!

We have also had a couple of lunches across the first term, where students are invited to come along and mix together over food...are you sensing a theme here? Teenagers and Food – it certainly seems to work.

Our first trip out for the Service students saw them visit Eat n Bowl in St Neots. Splitting into groups over 4 lanes some competitive matches were soon taking place. With a number of strikes Felix was the overall champion of the day, snatching victory from Miss Heather. Burger, chips and juice completed a great trip (see food again!).

We hope to have a quiz for service families in the New Year – so watch out for the date!





The Year 9 Scholar's Programme

Lysosomes and Autophagy: Why do our cells digest themselves when we are hungry?

This is not your standard topic to learn in school! Indeed, we are fortunate to have visiting scientist Jake Cross work with fourteen of our Year 9 students and investigate the answer to this tricky topic. Our students have done themselves proud, used complicated vocabulary they've never used before and studied hard to grapple with this topic and the many details associated with cells. Students have shared how much they are enjoying the experience, how their confidence is increasing and that the programme motivates them to keep working hard.

Our Autumn cohort are about to commence writing their final assignment and we are looking forward to seeing them all graduate from the Scholars programme at Cambridge University next term.

A reminder that the Brilliant Club's Scholar's programme is aimed at our Year 9 students to encourage them to be more ambitious and to consider a future which includes studying at university. Two groups each academic year get to work with a post grad student on their special topic to produce a dissertation – showing them they can do it! It's an incredibly powerful programme which is exceptionally well received by the students once they get started! The Talks for Scholars is about extending this ambition past the Year 9 Scholar's Programme, by getting them to consider a range of high-level and aspirational careers, linked to university study.

Talks for Scholars - Autumn 2023

TALKS FOR SCHOLARS
TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER
1:20PM - 2:15PM
ASSEMBLY ROOM

Nuclear & Engineering

- What does an Engineer do?
- Different engineering
- Myths about radiation
- Hinkley Power Station

Laura Mills
NB CAD Designlead
Essex UK Branch, Bristol



We have launched an inspirational program of talks for our scholars, past and present. This term our students attended an interactive talk with Laura Mills, CAD Design Leader, working in the Nuclear Engineering industry and Dr R Dewey, MRI Scanner specialist at the University of Nottingham. Students learned amazing facts, such as potassium being in a banana and that MRI machines only get turned on and off once in their lifetime!

TALKS FOR SCHOLARS
TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
1:20PM - 2:15PM
ASSEMBLY ROOM

MRI scanners

- How does an MRI scanner work?
- What does MRI let us see?
- Why is MRI great for looking at the brain?
- The brain and hearing

Dr Rebecca Dewey
University of Nottingham



I am delighted to share news about our students' increased engagement in this platform! Students have already answered over twice as many questions in one term as during the whole of the last academic year. Using GCSEPod regularly (learning content, self-quizzing and completing assignments) has proven to help students achieve one grade higher on average than non-users. The content is split into manageable 5-minute chunks and covers all of our GCSEs here at Hinchbrook.

We have been running lots of competitions and praising both staff and students for the usage of GCSEPod. Lots of departments are now setting pods and check & challenges for homework – which is great news!

So, this terms winners are:

The winning year groups is: **Year 9**

The winning house is.....**Cromwell**

The winning forms are...**7C2, 8V2, 9Si9, 10C2 and 11C1**...chocolates are on their way!

The winning individuals are...**Jane (7V1), Marcus (8V2), Luke (9Si10), Goda (10C1), Meerub (11C1), Tyler (9Si1), Ali (10M1 and Alex (11 P1)**

Congratulations to everyone who has been using GCSEPod!

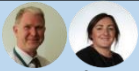
- Over 70,000 Check and Challenge questions answered correctly!
- Over 1200 Assignments completed!
- Over 18,000 pods accessed!



All three of these programmes are great initiatives to help raise ambition and indeed results for those children in the Pupil Premium category. If you have any questions regarding anything on this page, then please do contact us. The amazing Mrs Gratton heads up these initiatives, and you can reach her by emailing our pupil premium email address. Any queries related to Services please use the same address and mark for the attention of Mrs Bennett or Mrs Stevens.

Want to get in touch with us? Whatever the reason please email the Pupil Premium Team...pupilpremium@hbk.acesmat.uk





Academic Mentors Making a Difference

Interviews: In the magical school Kingdom of Hinchingsbrooke, Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley took on the roles of interview wizards, armed with clipboards and curiosity. For four action-packed weeks, they chatted with 64 Year 11 students before their GCSE mock exams in November. Think of it like a school adventure, with Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley uncovering dreams, funny class moments, and the secrets of how each student's brain likes to learn.

But this wasn't just a gossip fest; it was a master plan to guide these Year 11 heroes. Armed with the powerful knowledge of ambitions and learning styles, Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley handed out three mega-challenges to each student (otherwise known as targets), likewise wizards giving quests to brave knights. Now, with dreams, laughs, and three special missions, the Year 11s are ready to face the mock exam dragons in November!

Breakfast Club & Nightclub: Alright, imagine this awesome duo, Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley, as the morning and afternoon superheroes at Breakfast Club and Night Club. At Breakfast Club, the day starts at 8 a.m., and it's not just about books and pencils. No sir, it's a chance to power up for the day with a bacon or sausage roll and a drink. This is an opportunity to ensure students are on time and bellies are full to help power up the brain for learning. Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley work with specific students to ensure their day starts on the right note!

Now, fast forward to the legendary Night Club, where Year 11 students go to battle with their GCSE mocks and homework. Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley are like the cool wizards of the night, showing off their bag of tricks to defeat exams. Picture it: flash cards flying like ninja stars, post-it notes sticking like magical spells, and the mystical GCSE Pods bringing wisdom to the warrior students. And if exam stress tries to be a party crasher, don't worry; Mr Nunn and Ms Buckley have secret strategies to kick it out of the club.

It's like a daily adventure with these two, guiding Year 11s through epic quests of exams and breakfast delights. The school halls echo with the sound of breakfast rolls munching, and students march into battle with wisdom and full stomachs. Breakfast Club and Night Club – where the real magic happens! ✨ ✨

Don't forget, if you are entitled to a Free School Meal, you can also get a free breakfast from the food court every morning between 8am and 8:35am!



Workshops

A group of students in Years 11 and 13 had the second of their motivation workshops back in September of this academic year. This was run by our partner, Learning Performance, and saw 'Orange (EasyJet) Steve' captivating the students and imparting his wealth of knowledge on how to get motivated and see the world in a slightly different way.

Across the course of the academic year there will be a range of different workshops aimed at removing the barriers identified by your child, their teachers, and (if you complete the survey – see below) you too. There will be workshops on procrastination, speaking skills, confidence, study, and exam skills to name but a few. Although students miss lessons to attend these, the benefits they gain, and techniques they can take forward far outweigh missing a lesson or two!



Attendance Competition

Last academic year we launched an attendance competition to encourage Disadvantaged (Free School Meals and Looked After children) to improve their attendance, which is nationally worse than their peers. It was such a success we have added to it this academic year. At the end of the Christmas term, we will be looking at students who have achieved 100% attendance as well as those whose attendance is a great improvement on last year. These students will win prizes as a reward. We will repeat this for the Spring term and summer and then invite those with the highest and most improved attendance on a trip. Last summer this was to Thorpe Park, and they got to choose a friend to go with them!

Please encourage your child(ren) to come to school regularly, as being here makes a difference to their chances of success!

What can you do?

Our fabulous new academic mentors are busy interviewing the 404 pupil premium students to see how we can best support them at Hinchingsbrooke. To help us ensure we are doing all we can please can you fill in a quick survey if you are the parent/carer of a pupil premium student (Free School Meals, Looked After/Previously Looked After, Services) for each of your children. For each survey you complete your name will go into a hat for a prize draw. We are currently sourcing a number of fabulous prizes! The deadline to complete the survey is **Friday 5th January at 6pm**. The link to the survey is [here](#)

Pupil Premium Information on our website

We have revamped the Pupil Premium area of the Hinchingsbrooke School website. You can now find information about how to claim for free school meals, Pupil Premium+ (Looked After Children), Services, all of the newsletters we have produced, a Pupil Premium team outline and more information about The Scholar's Programme. It can all be found [here](#).



coachingwithwill



Parenting a Teenager (or pre-teen)



593 Posts 507 k Followers 390 Following

Will Elliott - Teen & Parent Coaching

@coachingwithwill



Coach Will
@coachingwithwill

This is possibly the toughest and most rewarding jobs in the world! One where we all need a little help from time to time. I have been following Coach Will on Instagram for some time now and boy some of his advice is blinding! So, I thought I would share a few nuggets with you and share his handle, in case you want to get some more of his brilliant advice.

1. Stop looking at success and **failure** as opposites. They're not. In order to succeed in life, you NEED 'failure' 🔥

2. **Consistency** is underrated. Like REALLY underrated. It's truly the key to success. 🔑

3. Stop placing your confidence in things you **can't control**. When you do, you aren't in control of your confidence (peoples' opinions, results etc) 🤖

4. **Serve others** without expecting to be served in return. It's so against the norm that you'll stand out instantly 💛

5. Do more things that bring you **joy**. Like schedule it in your calendar and treat yo'self ☕

6. There isn't much in life that can't be solved by **gratitude**. Seriously 🙏

7. Keep it **simple**. Feeling off? Go for a walk. Put the phone down. Drink water. Get your heart rate up. This usually does the trick 😊

8. Short term **sacrifices** lead to long term benefits. Practice making decisions that will serve future you more than today you 🌱

9. Enjoy the **small things** in life. Like coffee. And dogs. Both of those rock 🐾

10. You get what you focus on. **Focus** on what you want instead of what you fear 🦋

11. Emotions are like waves. Don't try to stop them from coming. **Learn to surf** and do your best with how you feel 🌊

12. Devote each day to simply making **progress**. Sounds cheesy, but 1% better every day is all you need to do 🙌

13. It's **okay** to not feel okay 💜

14. Let go of everything you can't control and **do your best** with what you can. Game changer 🍀

15. They're **not actually thinking of you**. They're thinking of what you're thinking of them 😊

16. Success has far more to do with your **character** than it does your grades. Become someone of strong character and results will follow 🧠

17. If you can **manage distractions** in life, your success is basically inevitable 🧑🏫📱

18. When you're feeling anxious, **zoom out** on the situation. Change your perspective. Will you be stressed about this in 5 months? 5 years? 🔍

19. If nothing changes, **nothing changes**. Don't be upset by the results you didn't get from the work you didn't do... 🙄

20. Alone time is healthy. It's okay to be **bored** 😊

21. Be willing to **ask for help**. Your ego will convince you that knowing everything leads to success. It doesn't. Being open to help does 🧠

