

HBK Update, Friday 18 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID safety measures and events this term - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Following Monday's government announcement about postponing Step 4 of the UK roadmap, we will be keeping all current safety measures in place until the end of term. This means wearing face coverings when moving around the site (unless exempt), maintaining year group bubbles in terms of social areas, break time facilities and bike sheds, encouraging the regular use of hand sanitiser, and maximising ventilation inside classrooms and school buildings.

Guidance from Education Transport states that students are still expected to wear face coverings whilst travelling on the school bus, so please can all parents encourage their child to comply with this expectation.

A further consequence of Monday's government announcement is that we have had to make some changes to the events that had previously been planned for this half term. All decisions have been made in line with Department for Education guidance released earlier this week. More detailed information will be shared about each event in due course, but in summary:

- The **Year 6 Taster Day** and **Pre-Taster morning** can no longer go ahead. Mr Milner will be sending out a letter detailing alternative plans to ensure all students have the smoothest transition to secondary school possible
- The **Sixth Form Induction Week** will be moving online, with some events postponed until September. The Sixth Form Team will be sending a letter out regarding the alternative arrangements being put in place to help Year 11 students prepare for life at Hinchingsbrooke Sixth Form
- The **Hinchingsbrooke Sports Day** will still go ahead with year group bubbles being maintained throughout the event
- The **Year 11 Prom** and **Sixth Form Ball** will be postponed until the final week of term, pending confirmation of the relaxation of COVID measures on 19th July. The Year 11 Prom will take place on Tuesday 20th July and the Sixth Form Ball will take place on Wednesday 21st July. Again, further information about each of these events will be sent out in due course
- The **Year 11 Leavers Assembly** will be postponed until Wednesday 21st July and will take place outside - more information to follow
- The **end of year assemblies** will take place for individual year groups on Wednesday 21st July. These will be held outside, taking place one year group at a time across the course of the day, and will be an opportunity for the whole year group to come together to celebrate a remarkable year

National Thank a Teacher Day, Wednesday 23rd June - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal



This academic year has been a challenging one for everyone in our school community. This term has been particularly tough for school staff, working through the TAG process with ever-changing goalposts. Given how exhausted school staff are at present, something that would really help everyone to get through to the end of

term would be to receive any messages of appreciation you wish to send. These do not necessarily just need to be for teaching staff as we have an extraordinary team of support staff too, without whose work the school could not run! The impact your kind words and positive feedback has on our staff cannot be underestimated, so please do go ahead and send in those positive messages. Cards could be sent into school via your child, or alternatively you could send an email using the member of staff's initials followed by @hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk. If you do not know the correct initials to use, please send messages to communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk, marking the message with the name of the staff member you wish it to be sent to. Thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy schedules to do this.

Attendance

We have been asked by the Cambridgeshire Local Authority to send all parents an important letter about school attendance. Please click [here](#).

Ofsted review into sexual harassment in schools – message from Mr Heath, Assistant Principal / Designated Safeguarding Lead

Last week Ofsted published a review into sexual harassment in schools. Nine in ten of the girls they spoke to told them that sexist behaviour was happening in their school community. Ofsted's message to schools was clear: that schools should "act on the assumption that sexual harassment is affecting their pupils". This is a challenging message for all of us who are responsible for raising children – both teachers and parents/carers. We do not want to imagine that our young people are either perpetrating these behaviours, or on the receiving end of them. Yet we have a responsibility to face up to the reality that many of them are. As a school, we take this responsibility seriously. We are encouraged that we already have a range of safeguarding measures in place to support our students and take seriously the delivery of the new Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum as part of our Personal Development programme. We accept all of the recommendations in Ofsted's review, and will work hard to implement them. Indeed we are already holding discussions with the Local Authority and the school's PSHCE and Safeguarding Teams about how we can best respond to the issues raised by this report. If you would like to read the full review and recommendations (please note it is a long document), then you can find the report [here](#). I encourage you to talk to your child about this issue. Ofsted found that sexist behaviour is so normalised in our children's culture that most of them simply accept it, and don't feel it is worth reporting. We all have a part to play in challenging this culture.

Free School Meal Vouchers – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Over the May/June half term the parents of students with FSM were allocated vouchers. If this is you, and you have not yet downloaded them, please do so ASAP and by 25th June at the latest. They will be reclaimed by the county after this date. If you are having any difficulties with the vouchers please contact us at covid-19@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

This week's blog is about how students consistently doing 'Retrieval Practice' can make a huge difference in making their learning stick. If you would like to read it, you can find it here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=203>

Thank you to our students for getting on sensibly and diligently with their learning, thank you to you as parents and carers for helping them do that, and lastly I would like to thank the staff for their efforts to do the best job they can in difficult times.

Have a great weekend.

We are Hinchbrooke.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal