

HBK Update, Friday 26 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 update

I was very much hoping to be able to report to you that we have not had to undertake track and trace (and as a result ask anyone to self-isolate) since reopening from 8 March but, alas, we were told just this morning about one positive case in the Sixth Form! This was a positive result from a home lateral flow test and the affected person will be seeking a confirmatory PCR test, in line with Government guidance. Those affected have been informed - on the plus side, they will thankfully only will miss a maximum of one day of school (assuming they are well over Easter and afterwards).

Reporting COVID-19 test results over the Easter break – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

All students who are participating in the ‘test at home’ programme should have received some more tests this week. Therefore, students should complete **2 tests per week over the Easter break** and in particular, take **a test immediately prior to returning to school on Monday 12 April**. Students should report the results of the 5 tests completed over the Easter break to the school and the NHS. This is done in the usual way, by entering **TestRegister.co.uk** into the browser and following the instructions, using their school email address. If a test result is positive then the student should then complete a **PCR test** (Polymerase Chain Reaction) at a testing station to confirm that they are positive. The test at home kits are **LFDs** (Lateral Flow Devices) and should only be used if the student is displaying **NO symptoms**. If the student starts to display any COVID-19 symptoms, then they should not use the home test kits but should complete a **PCR test** at a test centre.

The following information relates to positive results from a PCR test: As in previous school holidays, the Government has asked schools to help identify close contacts for up to 6 days after the final day of school before the Easter holiday. As our last day is today, 26 March, this means that in the event of a reported **positive case from a PCR test**, the school must continue to contact-trace up to Thursday 1 April. Contact-tracing through school will only apply where a member of staff or a student tests positive for Coronavirus having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of last being in school**. For example, if your child is in school today, 26 March and they develop symptoms on Sunday 28 March, you should seek a **PCR COVID-19 test** for your child and if the test result is positive, you should immediately contact the school using the email address, communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk, marking your email ‘Positive COVID-19 case’ and the name and Form Class of your child, alongside a telephone number on which the school can contact you. It will also be very helpful if you can put in your email the day and the approximate time when your child’s COVID-19 symptoms started. School staff will be monitoring the communications email address until Thursday 1 April for this purpose and a senior member of staff will be in contact with you as part of the contact-tracing process.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 **after** 48 hours from last being in school (for example, if your child is in school today but they develop symptoms in 3 days’ time), you should seek a **PCR test** for your child, but in the event of a positive result there is no need to contact school. Instead, you should notify close contact family and friends and follow advice as per NHS COVID-19 guidelines at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Assessment Schedule Y10-13 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Please find attached an **Assessment Schedule** for Year 10 (RPE), Year 11, Year 12 subjects which would have been examined this summer and Year 13. When used along with their timetable, students will be able to identify when their assessments will occur for each of their subjects. They will also receive a subject specific schedule from each relevant department, which will confirm the individual dates along with the topics and skills which will be assessed at each point.

Please also find a link for a video which takes you through the schedule and other aspects of the HBK Assessment Process. Hopefully this answers all your questions, but should you have any after watching the video, please contact the department (where relevant), your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year, Student Support Officer or myself.

HBK Assessment Process Video: <https://youtu.be/xx34LxCh7XU>

Year 12 and 13 students were emailed this information and Years 10 and 11 students watched the video and received a paper copy of their schedule on Thursday morning.

Thinking about the ongoing risk from COVID-19 (such as the need to self-isolate for 10 days if we are designated as a close contact of someone who has tested positive), a key message is that all of our students need to be mindful of the COVID-19 restrictions over the Easter holiday. We very much want them all back after Easter safe and well!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school and for helping your child(ren) navigate these uncertain times.

My new blog!

Over the February half-term, I started blogging! I have been thinking of doing this for quite some time but have not gotten around to it, mostly because of the work involved in setting up a website to store the blogs! I intend that all of the blogs will be school or education-related and if you would like to read my first blog, you can find it here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=67>

Thank you

A big thank you to students for their sterling work since returning to school, to you as parents for your continuing great support for both your children and our school, and finally I would like to thank the Hinchingsbrooke staff for their continuing dedication to do their very best for the young people in our care.

May I wish you all a safe and very happy Easter!

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Mark Patterson
Principal