

HBK Update, Friday 5 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Lateral Flow Testing in school

Our programme of testing in school began today, with Year 12 and Year 13 students! We were greatly helped by those parent volunteers, to whom we are very grateful indeed, and we are pleased to report that the testing went well! Here is a link to the video, already posted on Twitter, that Mr Cooke and Mr Pape made, which walks through the testing process in school; if your child is feeling a bit anxious, or would just like some more information about the testing in school, hopefully the video will help: <https://youtu.be/yO8e6WcWcPE>

I am also pleased to tell you that approximately 90% of HBK students are currently signed up to take the tests in school.

Information from the Local Authority for parents about accessing COVID-19 tests

The Cambridgeshire Local Authority have asked us to pass on to you information about the rapid testing facilities / devices available for parents. Here is the link they sent us:

<https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/asset-library/Corona-Virus-Schools/Help-us-keep-coronavirus-out-of-school.pdf>

Rapid testing of Students at Home – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

The government guidelines say this: *Home testing is being introduced for secondary age students. It is important that students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site, at an asymptomatic test site (ATS). Secondary schools should offer students 3 tests on-site, 3 to 5 days apart (min 3 days), upon their return. Testing on-site (via an ATS) initially is a condition of being able to transition students to test at home.*

When students complete their third LFD test in school they will also collect a 'Covid-19 Self-test Kit' which contains either 3 or 7 tests in the box. Therefore, 6th formers will begin home-testing on the week commencing Monday 15 March 2021; Year groups 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 will begin home-testing on the week commencing Monday 22 March. More details will follow on this in due course.

Outdoor Benches in Year Group Zones - message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

Today, we have been able to start installing the new additional benches in the Year Group Social Zones! This bench project has been funded through the non-uniform money raised at the end of last term, the generosity of our community who donated on the crowd-funding page and a grant from the Hinchingsbrooke Trust. Work on this will continue over the next couple of weeks. This really has been an excellent community project with great benefits to our students! Thank you. We Are Hinchingsbrooke.



Free School Meal vouchers will not be sent out from 8 March, as this is the formal return-to-school date.

Attendance – Message from Mrs Benjafield, Attendance Officer

Attendance at school will once again be mandatory for all students from 8 March 2021 following the Government's announcement on 22 February 2021.

Parents/Carers are reminded that it is their legal duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school. A failure to do so is likely to result in the issue of fixed penalty notices or legal proceedings, in line with the Local Authority's Codes of Conduct.

Parents/Carers should please advise us if their child is not returning to school prior to 31 March, as a result of CEV shielding. If you could forward a copy of the DoH&SS letter to school, for our records, that would be appreciated.

School Uniform – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Students are expected to be in full school uniform when they return to school for face to face teaching on the day after their first test. Please speak to your child's Form Tutor or SSO if uniform is going to be an issue so that we can support you with this. As the weather is likely to be a bit cold initially, may I remind you that students can wear a school jumper under their blazer and / or a plain white vest or T-shirt under their school shirt if they wish to layer up. Hoodies are not allowed but we encourage students to wear a warm, waterproof coat in case of inclement weather.

Vulnerable and Key worker School arrangements for next week: look out for a separate ParentMail to be sent to families for whom this is relevant, by Ms Nightingale today.

Letter from Andrew Goulding, CEO of ACES Academies Trust - please click [here](#)

Current vacancies at HBK

We currently have 2 Teaching Assistant vacancies within our SEND department. Please click on the links for further details.

[Level 3 Teaching Assistant](#)

[Level 1 Teaching Assistant](#)

We are really looking forward to having everyone back in school next week and beyond! Hopefully, we can then all enjoy at least a partial return to normality!

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend, and keep safe.

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson
Principal