

8 January 2021

## HBK Update, Friday 8 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what an extraordinary week this has been! We have all had to adjust to a rapidly changing situation and we have been so impressed with the way in which students have responded to yet another new approach to learning. Students in Years 11 and 13 have engaged brilliantly in their Teams lessons this week and staff have been grateful for their patience as we navigate the features and challenges of this platform. Students in other year groups have clearly worked diligently and independently on their home learning tasks and we look forward to welcoming them to live lessons from Monday.

The challenges brought by this latest lockdown have also highlighted how amazingly supportive and adaptable our school community is, as demonstrated by the large number of you who put yourselves forward to help with the mass testing programme. We have also had many lovely messages from parents praising the online provision that we have put in place so far, which is greatly appreciated. In addition we have seen once again the way in which Hinchingsbrooke staff, both teaching and support, have stepped up and taken on a range of roles, some familiar, but many unfamiliar, in order to ensure that we are able to support all students at this challenging time.

The irony of spending so much time telling students to get off their mobile devices, only to now expect them to spend so many hours each day on a screen is not lost on us and for this reason, amongst others, we would like to encourage students (as well as staff and parents!) to try and have a break over the weekend. One of the challenges of moving to a new way of teaching and setting work is gauging workload. As long as students have spent the equivalent amount of lesson and homework time completing tasks this week, they should not feel under pressure to do more, even if they have not perhaps finished everything that has been set. In short, they should do the best they reasonably can.

Thank you to those of you who have responded regarding places for the keyworker school. Further information and confirmation of places is being sent out this afternoon. Thank you to Miss Nightingale for leading this massive undertaking, especially with constantly moving goalposts.

We will be in contact again over the course of next week, but for the moment we hope that all of our community has the opportunity for at least a bit of a breather over the next couple of days.

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards

*Kate Tandy*

**Vice Principal**