

HBK Update, Friday 5 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well done to HBK students!

I would like to congratulate our students, both those in school and the vast majority who are working from home, for the way you are approaching your school-work. I have seen many emails now from teachers that say how well their students are just getting on, as best they can, with the important business of learning. Even though things are clearly difficult – learning online is not as good as learning face-to-face, clearly; and even though there is huge uncertainty (When will school reopen? What will happen with Year 11 and Year 13 grades/exams? Etc...). Teachers report that students' attendance at the online lessons is very high – over 90% - and this figure will compare very favourably indeed with the national average attendance at this time. Well done to our students; we just keep going, together, and we can be optimistic about a brighter future ahead!

Digital Detox Day, Wednesday 10th February – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Your children will be sent an outline of the different challenges they could chose to do on Digital Detox Day this afternoon (both by email and on Doodle). Attached to this ParentMail is also an outline of the various challenges. As a parent you have a redacted version – as some challenges are secret missions! As some students may need resources for the challenges they choose, you may want to ensure you have all you need in the house by next Wednesday!

We hope that by getting involved with the challenges, students will have a chance not to be glued to their computer all day, and to use their phones only sparingly. We also hope they will enjoy the challenges and that those challenges will be genuinely good for their mental health and well-being. Students can send us evidence of their challenges (details on the PowerPoint), but they don't need to; they can simply do them and have fun.

A reminder that there will be no live lessons on Wednesday 10th February. The expectation is that students will fully engage with the Digital Detox Challenges instead.

Device Needs - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

If your child is still trying to use their phone for their online learning please let us know, as we have had a delivery of laptops this week. Likewise if your child is sharing a device with another member of the household, we are able to lend a laptop. Please email Mrs Moore (jm@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk)

Emergency school closure

As there is the possibility of snow over the weekend and into Monday, it feels prudent to tell you about the school's procedures in the event that we have to close the school. Of course, in that event of closure during this lockdown, we would hope that our live online lessons would continue as normal, but school closure would affect those students (and staff) who are attending school at this time. In the event of school closure, we will:

- Send a ParentMail out, as early as possible, with the title **'School is closed today' and then the date.**
- Place the school closure message on the front page of our website
- Inform BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, and ask them to carry the closure message
- Keep you updated, for example about when school will reopen, through ParentMail and the school website

This is just a precaution; we hope to be open for the children of key workers and for vulnerable pupils as usual next week.

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Best wishes

Mark Patterson