

HBK Update, Friday 19 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Our school COVID-19 mass testing programme is complete!

After around 5000 tests completed in two weeks, we completed the mass COVID-19 testing programme yesterday! I would like to pay tribute to the many parent volunteers who have helped us, without whom we would not have been able to complete this mammoth task. They went far above and beyond, and we are very grateful to them all.

Well done to our students, your children!

I would like to commend our students on the mature way in which they have returned to school and got on with the business of face to face learning, including their behavior during the COVID-19 testing. The parent volunteers asked me to pass on to all families how impressed they have been with the students – they used phrases like ‘incredibly polite’, ‘mature’ and ‘lovely’ - it was indeed lovely to hear them say those things! Please say a big well done to your child!

Digital Detox Day Winners! – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

With over 1700 photos, videos and pieces of work, it has taken a little longer than anticipated to look at everything, debate and decide the winners, so thank you for your patience in this regard! Please find a link below which will show case some of the fabulous entries we received, as well as sharing the names of the winners in various categories. The winners of the different categories will have been awarded their certificate, and where relevant, their Amazon voucher this afternoon. Cheesy though it may sound, I like to think we are all winners if we engaged with any of the challenges and enjoyed ourselves on the Digital Detox Day. Thank you again for your phenomenal support for this initiative, and we hope you enjoy the video:
<https://youtu.be/BwuMA-Dy6NI>



[HBK Digital Detox Day Results Video](https://youtu.be/BwuMA-Dy6NI)

youtu.be

Replacing Doodle from September 2021 – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

As a result of lockdown, teachers and pupils have all become more skilled in the use of Microsoft Teams and as a result, our plan is to fully replace Doodle by using Teams. This move from will happen over the remainder of this school year and we will be using Teams exclusively from September. In the interim, I have asked our staff to ensure that the pupils are regularly reminded of the platform the work has been set in to avoid any confusion. We intend to use Teams as:

- Our way of setting homework, via the "Assignments" function
- An electronic repository for uploading past papers/documents via the "Files" function and
- Our way of teaching live lessons or ‘blended’ lessons, should the need arise.

Our IT team have enabled the parental email digest function, so you should receive a weekly email detailing the assignments which have been set for your child. If you have not been receiving these emails please get in touch with Mr Cooper (Lead IT Technician) at RC@Hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk.

We have a small number of departments such as Computer Science and Business who were already using Google Classroom (GC) before the recent lockdown and they will continue to use this platform.

Ensuring equality at Hinchbrooke School

I have today released a video statement to staff and students about our ongoing efforts to ensure that everyone at the school is treated with courtesy and respect, whatever their background, their gender and their other personal characteristics. The statement is a response to some student activity on social media platforms, as well as a small number of incidents that have occurred in school. The video version of this statement is here: <https://youtu.be/wngFOjNwK-w>

At Hinchbrooke, we welcome, and we include, everyone, and we celebrate, too, the extraordinary diversity of both the world and the diversity within our own school community. We expect everyone in our community to treat everyone else with courtesy, kindness and humanity. This week, we were made aware of posts and comments made on social media by some students, that have caused argument and upset. We know that discrimination of all types occurs, particularly online, and we will do all we can to prevent it from happening in our own school community. The national lockdown has led to an increase in the use of social media for many people and not being in school has reduced our opportunities to guide students in how they can safely express their thoughts and opinions within clear boundaries, for example in PSHCE lessons and in Form Time.

This is Hinchbrooke's position, said as clearly as I can say it: we will not tolerate anyone in our community using language that is intended to provoke or upset other people, because it breaches our one school rule - 'Respect'. Using offensive or inappropriate language is disrespectful, and it is unkind. As a school, we are of course committed to engaging with important issues that arise in the wider world and discussing them thoughtfully and respectfully within clear boundaries, but we will also challenge attitudes and behaviour that are not respectful of everyone in our school community.

Our core values are Responsible, Empathetic and Proud. Being responsible is about doing the right thing, even when no one is watching, including when we are online; being empathetic is about accepting the differences between people with kindness and humanity, and indeed celebrating those differences; and being proud is about having pride in our great school that we all share and showing that pride through how well we treat each other every day.

This week, we have been dealing with the small number of specific things that have happened. We have spoken to individual students and their parents regarding the recent social media content that has caused upset, but inclusion is about everyone, so we will be opening up conversations in Form Time and in other lessons. Part of this process will be providing students with appropriate language to use when discussing issues that may be sensitive ones to many.

We also ask that parents continue these conversations at home, to ensure that our message is clear: If you know or think there is a risk that what you are about to say to someone else could cause them offence or upset, think again. Think RESPECT. Think kindness. And don't say it. This is a lesson that students will need to learn for later life, including in the workplace, but is also about encouraging them to be good citizens right now. Similarly, whilst the use of social media in the evenings and at

weekends is not under the school's remit, we are asking everyone to carefully consider what they post and again, whether it may cause upset or offence to other people in our school community.

Have a lovely weekend. Keep safe.

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal