

HBK Update, Friday 12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Google Classroom Guide for Students – from Lewis Tembey, Year 11

Lewis produced a students' guide to Microsoft Teams several weeks ago, and now he has kindly produced a students' guide to using Google Classroom. Please click on the following link [Google Classroom - HBK Student Guide](#) to view. It is another high-quality document and we hope that at least some students will find it helpful. Very well done, again, to Lewis!

IT issues

Please encourage your child to report any ongoing IT issues to their teacher. IT issues can of course be a problem for us all, but if we can help, we will.

Students who wish to do some extra work from home!

It will be important for your child to have **a good rest over half-term**, including 'detox' time away from screens, but if your child does want to do some extra work:

Oak National Academy, an online provider of free lessons with interactive content, have announced this week that they have negotiated with every major mobile phone provider that **access to their website is now Data-Free**. This means our students who are using mobile phones, perhaps with poor Wi-fi or no data on their mobile phone contract, can still access the Oak Academy website and all the lessons for free and without using up any of their data usage allowance. Here is the link to their website:

<https://www.thenational.academy>

Vacancy for a Grounds Assistant at HBK

The deadline for applications is Monday 22 February. Here is the link to the advert from the school's website: <https://www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Grounds+Assistant&pid=871&action=saved>

Free School Meals news - from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

If it is relevant to you, please refer to a ParentMail sent out earlier this week regarding vouchers and other support over half term. With the current pandemic, people's financial situations can change quickly and dramatically. If you feel you might now qualify for free school meals, please look at the attached letter and make an application. If you need any help with this, please contact your Student Support Officer after half term.

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

On Wednesday hundreds of students (and many staff) rose to take up the challenges of Digital Detox Day! We had hundreds of photos and videos sent to us to show how brilliantly they were doing. I heard that we have some amazing pancake flippers – one flipping her pancake 128 times, and she was beaten by her sister who managed 150 flips! Wow! There are great wildlife photos and heartfelt thank you letters which bring a tear to

the eye. I hope your child was convinced to clean up their room/wardrobe, we certainly had many pictures of spic and span rooms! And that is just to mention a few of the amazing things your children achieved on the day.

We are now going through all of the work to choose some winners for those challenges which have a prize attached and will share these with you after the half term break.

Please see a short video from [Digital Detox Day](#) so you can see some of the wonders of the day. And remember there is no reason why the family can't try some of the other challenges during the half term break! Thank you for supporting this initiative!

When will school reopen?

The Prime Minister promised some time ago that we would have news of this 'during the week beginning 22 February'. We were told separately that we would be given two weeks' notice of school reopening, which also points to reopening news around 22 February. As soon as we know more, we will let you know.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to HBK parents for all that you have done this half term, to support both your child and the school. Given the extraordinary circumstances, I think that parents, students and the school's staff have been magnificent and I am really proud of what we have achieved, working together. This is not to ignore the challenges, the IT issues, the steep learning curve we are all going through with remote learning and so on; it is to say that in spite of those things, we keep going and we keep doing our best. Please pass on my sincere thanks and congratulations to your child for their resilience and their hard work.

Half Term at Home Toolkit – message from Cambridgeshire Local Authority

The Communications Team have pulled together some fun home cooking and local exercise activities for children during half term. You can access their toolkit here: <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk//asset-library/Corona-Virus-Schools/Half-Term-at-Home-Toolkit-120221.pdf>

Letter for parents of children who are currently attending school - message from Cambridgeshire Local Authority

Parents and carers who are key workers or leaving home regularly to go to work are being urged to have regular rapid result tests to help track cases of Coronavirus and drive down transmission rates. Link here: <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk//asset-library/Corona-Virus-Schools/Key-worker-parent-article-120221.docx>

Have a lovely half-term.

We are Hinchbrooke.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson
Principal