



## HBK Update, Friday 10 November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your usual Friday HBK update!

### Upcoming Year 11 'Mock' Examinations (and Year 10 RPE exam) – from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Over the next 2 weeks Year 11 mocks will take place (and one RPE exam for Year 10). Students have received their emails with their personal timetable and seat numbers; they have seen a video about the correct way to enter and exit the exams; they have been taken through all the rules and regulations (assembly and PowerPoint slides shown to them by their form tutors); and they have received the early lunch schedule on Teams and had a 'walk-through' for the exams (Y11). The following points are key:

- Students not behaving appropriately will be removed from the exam
- Students are NOT permitted to take a watch (even analogue), a phone or any other electrical device into the exam hall (there are some exceptions)
- Students MUST be on time to exams, or they may not be permitted entry
- Students MUST be in full school uniform, including school shoes and a blazer
- All personal belongings including their coat needs to be deposited in the bag store before the exam
- Students can only take in water in a clear bottle into the exam
- Students must not attempt to communicate with each other once in the exam building

If any students miss an exam due to ill health (or other approved reason) there are a number of catch-up sessions they must attend to complete the paper:

- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November (09:00)
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November (13:15)
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (13:30)
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November (13:15)

This week we had a few students behave inappropriately in a live exam, which has now been referred as malpractice and may have very serious consequences. The Mocks have the same standards to ensure the students are ready for their live exams (such as the summer GCSE and BTEC exams). **The vast majority of our students behave in an exemplary fashion** and we know will give each exam their very best effort. We wish the students the best of luck.

The Nightclub facility (LRC Monday - Thursday 3:15-5pm) will still be available throughout the Mock season, for students to use as a revision space.

The National Tutoring Programme pauses during the mocks, starting again on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### 'Live' Exams – from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

There are live (formal, externally-set) exams throughout the year for different qualifications. For these exams, the school has to pay a fee for **each paper** a student is entered for, and the students will be entered for all exams in which the school/teachers feel they are likely to achieve a grade. Unless there is a verified reason, students who fail to attend an exam will be charged the examination board fee for that paper - currently that fee is £50. We do this to ensure that students do not just 'choose' not to attend an exam for which the school has had to pay a high fee; of course, non-attendance for a good, 'verified' reason would not incur the fee.

## Hinchingbrooke Remembrance - from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We have held services of Remembrance each morning in assembly this week and students have conducted themselves impeccably, both during the assemblies and during the minute's silence held across the school this morning. We were very grateful to be joined in our services of Remembrance by Wing Commander Jim Doyle MBE (RAF), Station Warrant Officer Mark Hooper (Royal Navy) and Sargent Chris McCormick (Army) who spoke to students about their role and what Remembrance means to them.

On Thursday we took a small group of Service students to RAF Wyton to attend their Remembrance Memorial service. Again, the students were impeccable and did a fantastic job representing the school. You can see some lovely photos here:



## Christmas HAF Programme – from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is available over the Christmas school holidays. Eligible pupils, in receipt of benefit-related FSM, can attend participating holiday schemes for up to 16 hours for free; a daily meal and enriching experiences with peers will be on offer. An eligibility voucher and booking code will be sent by email and text to eligible parents on 6th November.

The **additional** eligibility criteria for the Christmas HAF Programme are here:

- Families just managing financially
- Families where FSM eligible and non-eligible children live in the same household
- Newly arrived refugee families

If you fall into one of the 3 categories above and would like your Hinchingbrooke child(ren) to have a place please contact Sarah Bennett ([pupilpremium@hbk.acesmat.uk](mailto:pupilpremium@hbk.acesmat.uk)) stating which category you are applying in relation to and the name(s) of your Hinchingbrooke child(ren) you are applying for. Please do this ASAP so we can allocate a voucher and you have time to book places before the Christmas holidays arrive.

For further information, please see the [letter](#) and [poster](#) in addition to visiting the [HAF Programme webpage](#). Please direct any questions about the programme to The Cambridgeshire HAF Team: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Year 11-13 Trip to Malaysia – from Mr Evans, Head of Geography

Hinchingsbrooke's second Geography/Biology trip to Malaysia took place over the half term break. Students travelled to Singapore and then on to Kuala Lumpur where they spent the end of the day at the top of the stunning Petronas Towers. The next day was off to the oldest rainforest in the world, where students experienced a night walk searching for bugs, a jungle trek looking at the flora and fauna of the rainforest and a river trip culminating with a bath in a rainforest river. We went on to the Mossy Forest, the oldest forest in the world, again studying the ecosystem. A quick visit to a tea plantation and back to Kuala Lumpur.

A most amazing trip!



## Supporting our Service children! – Ms Bennett, Pupil Premium Coordinator

Just before half-term, we held our first special lunch for our Service Children! Students came on their lunch break and enjoyed some sweet treats provided by school. We handed out the 'Little Troopers' Gazette ([Home - Little Troopers](#)) which we hope to get more involved with, as it is one way of providing information/support to our Service Children. Look out for our next Pupil Premium newsletter and our next initiative for our Service children.

If you are still serving in the military or have left within the last 6 years and do not believe school know, please email [pupilpremium@hbk.acesmat.uk](mailto:pupilpremium@hbk.acesmat.uk) so we can update our records.



## Events at the PAC – message from Mr Fidler, HBK Leisure Manager



### **Now That's What I Call Xmas!**

Step into Christmas with the biggest, cheesiest, most festive Christmas disco around!! Shake your tinsel, don your Santa hat and get ready for an old school style disco, with a festive twist.

Please use the link below for further details and to book tickets:

[Now That's What I Call Xmas at PAC | Hinchingsbrooke Performing Arts Centre event tickets from TicketSource](#)

## This week's blog

This week's blog is a reminder of the importance of just getting stuff done. If you would like to read it, it's here: [Just do it – Learning is the thing](#)

Best wishes

**Mark Patterson**

**Principal**