

HBK Update, Friday 26 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Friday ParentMail!

'Movember!'

The month is almost over, and Team HBK are still going, growing those facial hairs for good causes! If you can spare a few pounds, here again is the link: <https://uk.movember.com/team/2402041>

Progress Reports for Years 10 and 12 – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

Progress Reports for Years 10 and 12 have been sent to parents and students this week. These were sent electronically to the email addresses that were provided to us when your child joined HBK. If you have not received the progress report, please email reports@hbk.acesmat.uk and we will ensure a copy is sent to you.

HBK Parent/Carer Survey – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We have had 77 responses to the parent survey so far, but we want to hear more of your views! Please see below a reminder of last week's message and the link to the survey if you have not had a chance to complete it yet.

We are always keen to seek feedback from students, parents/carers and staff about how we are doing as a school and how we can improve further. Indeed, following feedback from parents last year we will be revising parent evening appointment times and are adding more information about the curriculum and 'This is Hinchingbrooke' to our website, so your voice matters and makes a difference to the way we do things.

Our intention this year is to change the way we carry out our surveys: we will now do 2 surveys in the year so that we can focus on in-year improvement as well as year-on-year improvement. We would like to set up different focus groups with parents, students and staff in the New Year to discuss different ways we can improve what we do at Hinchingbrooke, using the survey feedback as our starting point.

I realise that a number of you already responded to the Ofsted survey last week, which slightly delayed our own surveys from going out, but I would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to fill these out. As well as the Ofsted questions we have used in previous years, we have included some new questions around some of the initiatives introduced this year, including Knowledge Organisers and self-quizzing.

The survey will be open until midday on Monday 29 November. Thank you in advance for providing your feedback.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlnohB-HX4xlKsIIITu74MhQZUOUJSQk5MVIZGUKVMODFYSlg4OTNZWTNKOS4u>

Year 11 Mocks – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Generally, we have been really impressed with how Year 11 have conducted themselves this week. Going in and out of the exam's hall has been exemplary! We all now need to work on getting the students back into lessons promptly after each exam and conduct during early lunch. Please say well done to any of your children that are among our Year 11s!

Half Term Vouchers for FSM – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice Principal

Parents of students who are entitled to FSM would have received a voucher over the October half term. There are some who have not yet claimed and spent these vouchers. You need to do so before 12pm on 3 December, at which point Cambridge County Council will withdraw the voucher. Any issues, please contact our new Pupil Premium Administrator, Sarah Bennett (sbennett@hbk.acesmat.uk).

Covid-19 Update – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

We are very pleased that the number of covid-19 cases amongst our students and staff continues to remain very low. There is a slight increase week on week as the term progresses, most noticeably in Year 7 which is the only year group of students who are too young to receive a vaccination. Thank you for all you are doing in supporting your child(ren) in following the additional mitigations which we currently have in place and proving to be effective: twice-weekly LF testing (as a minimum), wearing face coverings indoors (not classrooms) and regular use of hand sanitiser throughout the day.

The majority of our students are very good at remembering to bring in their own face covering and hand sanitiser, but it is becoming a significant additional expense to the school to keep providing face coverings and hand sanitiser, on a daily basis, to those students who repeatedly forget to bring them, or do not bother. We really appreciate parents' support in providing these items for their child(ren) so that the school's money does not need to be redirected from other areas. Thank you.

Ofsted Inspection of HBK: Update

Yesterday, senior colleagues and I submitted to Ofsted a number of comments on the draft inspection report that was sent to us earlier this week for a 'factual accuracy check'. We are hopeful that Ofsted will make changes to the draft report as a result of our comments, but, obviously, there is no guarantee of this. We are probably still around 10 days away from publication of the final report, which I will share with you as soon as I get it.

Influenza Immunisation – message from Mr Pape, Assistant Principal

On **Wednesday 8 December**, all students from year 7 to year 11 will have the opportunity to receive a **flu vaccine**, given as a simple squirt up the nose by a nurse. It is painless and quick, and side effects are uncommon and generally mild. By having the flu vaccination, children are protected against the flu, which can be serious. Importantly, they are also less likely to pass the virus on to friends and family, especially those who may be at high risk from flu, such as babies, elderly people or friends and relatives with a serious health condition.

Please find see the [NHS Influenza Immunisation Letter](#) for further information and a Nasal Flu Immunisation [Consent Form](#) which must be printed off, completed and returned to the student's tutor **by Monday 29 November at the latest**. The NHS Care team will be collecting these from school and the nurses will only administer the flu vaccination to those students for whom a consent form has been submitted. If you do not have access to a printer then your child can collect a consent form from their SSO.

Year 13 Update – message from Mrs Black, Head of Year 13 and Associate Principal

Students are working hard for their Year 13 Mock exams that start a week from today! The exam period runs from Friday 3 December to Thursday 16 December, and students are not required to attend any normal lessons during this period unless they have been specifically told to do so. However, class teachers have been asked to make themselves available at the scheduled lesson times, for any questions students may have. The exams timetable will be available during tutor time next Tuesday 30 November. We would ask for your support in ensuring that any absence is reported by 7.30am and that students are taking a lateral flow test before each exam. In the lead up to the Mocks and during them, the study rooms in the House will be available until 5pm Monday - Thursday.

Unsurprisingly, students are feeling nervous about the exams. As a Sixth Form team we absolutely recognise this and we are explaining to our students that it is completely normal! Our message is that the exams are of course important, but that having worked hard and been prepared by their subject teachers, students should not feel overly concerned: we want the Mock exams to be a positive experience that helps our students learn and improve and provides them with the valuable experience of sitting exams.

Friday 17 December is our last day of this term; students should attend school as normal on this day (the day ends at lunchtime).

Excitingly, 58 students have already submitted their UCAS applications and 45 of these already hold at least one conditional offer! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support with these. When I speak to students, it is very clear what a team effort it is! Tutors are regularly having 1:1 meetings with the students to support everyone's next steps, so please encourage them to attend these, so they can receive the excellent support that is on offer.

Arkwright Scholars at HBK!

At Breaktime yesterday, Mrs Moyes, Mrs Rix, Mr Jack, Mr Cooke and I met two of our Sixth Form students, James Redfern and Ivan Festin, in the Bridal suite of the House to present them with certificates and badges and chocolates in celebration of their achieving the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship this year! Two HBK governors, Mr Askew and Mr Shaw, were also in attendance. Mr Jack started by explaining to us all the significance of the scholarship, and then we made the presentations to James and Ivan and took a lovely photo



Well done James and Ivan, and a big thank-you to Mr Jack for ensuring that HBK is an Arkwright Scholars school!

HBK Year 9 Footballers – message from Mr Chilton, Teacher of PE



The magic of the cup was alive this morning as a strong Redborne side travelled across to HBK in the 4th round of the ESFA Cup.

In a tough match from the first whistle to the last, HBK showed great character and pride to come away with a 4-2 victory! 2 goals from man of the match Dickson and 2 from Holland sealed the victory to secure another home game in the last 64!

The road to Wembley continues for the Year 9s!!

Vacancies at HBK



Senior IT Technician

Hinchingsbrook School is looking to appoint a motivated Senior IT Technician to lead a small and friendly IT Services Team to support the delivery of Teaching and Learning at Hinchingsbrook School. Please click the link [Senior IT Technician](#) for further information and details of how to apply.

Site Officer

Hinchingsbrook School is seeking to appoint a skilled, caring and enthusiastic Site Officer to join our team. Please click the link [Site Officer](#) for further information and details of how to apply.



ACES Academies Trust

Please visit the ACES website for current vacancies at schools within the Trust
www.acesacademies.co.uk/vacancies

Please feel free to share any of our vacancies with family and friends who may be interested

This week's blog

This week's blog discusses the difference between 'performance' and 'learning'. You can find it here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=307>

We are Hinchingsbrook.

Hard Work – High Standards – Kindness

Mark Patterson
Principal