

HBK Update, Friday 12 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your Friday HBK update!

Ofsted Inspection of the school this week

We were inspected on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week in what Ofsted calls a 'Section 8' inspection. Section 8 inspections are designed to check whether schools that were previously judged good or outstanding remain so - Hinchingsbrooke was judged Good when it was last inspected, in April 2016. It will be several weeks before the inspection report, including the inspection judgement, is published but at this stage I can say that we were happy with the verbal feedback that was given to us by the lead inspector at the end of the inspection. Once the final report is available, I will be pleased to send it to you. Thank you very much to all parents who were able to respond to Ofsted's request to tell them your views about the school on their 'ParentView' website.

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

As mentioned last week, the Local Authority (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) has been designated as an **'Enhanced Response Area' (ERA)** due to the high levels of Covid-19 cases in the locality. The Local Authority has asked all schools to pass on the [letter](#) which gives further information regarding this.

As you will read in the letter, the Local Authority is specifically requesting schools to continue with measures until 10 December, at least. These measures include:

- **Twice weekly (minimum) Lateral Flow testing and monitoring the results.** Hinchingsbrooke School is using the TestRegister.co.uk system for recording the results. So please encourage your child to do this by clicking on the link in the email from Test Register, which they are sent on Monday and Thursday mornings to their school email account. Thank you.
- **Wearing face masks inside** (but not in classrooms). So please can you support your child with bringing a face mask to school, which is frequently washed or replaced to help maintain its effectiveness. Thank you.

Mock Examinations November/December 2021 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice Principal

The contingency plans for Summer 2021 have now been published by the government. Fortunately, this does not mean we need to alter any of our plans for Year 11 or Year 13 Mocks. The Year 11 Mocks will take place between 22 November and 3 December, and the Year 13 Mocks will take place between 3 and 16 December. Information has already gone out to Year 11, which will be updated and placed on the website next week. Year 13 information to follow.

News from the Sixth Form – message from Mrs Rix, Director of Sixth Form

Please note the ParentMail that Mrs Black sent out yesterday regarding important information about how we are supporting Year 13 students this half term.

We are looking to establish a network of visiting speakers to our Sixth Form. If you would like to come and deliver a presentation about an aspect of your work, or an aspect of your life which you feel would inspire our young people, please do get in touch at sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Teaching and Learning update – Homework message from Ms Solvar-Isida

As always, **thank you** for your continued support with our Teaching and Learning initiatives designed to help your child/children make excellent progress.

Before the October half-term break, we received feedback from some parents and students that they felt their homework load was heavy, so we have reviewed our practice to ensure there is no disconnect between teachers' expectations for homework and our students' perceptions.

In light of the review, over the last 2 weeks we have been:

- remodelling in many lessons and in tutor time what the self-quizzing homework should be/look like, including to ensure students do not spend more than the 20 minutes recommended;
- asking teachers to be more explicit about how long any 'additional tasks' they set should take - in line with our policy.

If you were a parent who was concerned about the homework load, we hope you will see a difference in your child's homework workload management. Thank you again for your feedback on an area that is so crucial for your child's progress; we are confident that, with time, **practice will become easier** and it will feel more like a routine.

Vacancy at HBK for a Senior IT Technician

We currently have a vacancy at Hinchingsbrooke School for a [Senior IT Technician](#). For details of all the vacancies within the ACES Academies Trust, please visit www.acesacademies.co.uk/vacancies

Please feel free to share these vacancies with friends and family who may be interested.

This week's blog

This week's blog is the next in my 'The problem with...' series. If you would like to read it, you can find it here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=295>

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend!

Best wishes

Mark Patterson
Principal