

## HBK Update, Friday 10 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your Friday HBK update!

### Ofsted Inspection Report

Ofsted final inspection report of the school, following our inspection last month, is due anytime, but we have still haven't had it as I type this. I will let you know when I do.

### Sixth Form update – message from the Sixth Form Team to Parents of Year 13 and Year 11 Students

We have been really pleased with how well the Year 13s have coped with the pressures of their Mocks Exams this week! Please make sure you have read the messages about what to do if your child is not well enough to sit an exam when it is scheduled.

Information will shortly be issued for Year 11 parents whose child will apply for our Sixth Form for Sept 2022. We very much look forward to receiving their application!

### HBK Christmas 'Snowman' Concert

I was privileged to attend the Christmas concert yesterday evening – please be assured that there were lots of COVID mitigations in place – and what a delightful event it was! I closed my eyes briefly at one point – when Tia Lewis was singing - and it was like I was listening to Adele's younger sister! Music-making and music-enjoying really are gifts to the world and I would like to thank and congratulate our wonderful performers and the HBK Music Team for laying on a much-needed treat for the eyes and ears. Well done to you all!

### Staff absence update

We are working hard to cope with a large number of staff who are absent from school at the moment. Not all of the absences are COVID-related but a significant number are. We are fortunate that supply teaching agencies have so far been able to provide us with cover teachers, and this is getting us through what must be a disrupted time for many students – we do apologise for this. We cannot afford many more staff to become ill/absent at this time and still keep all year groups safely in school, as we are already stretched. We are very hopeful that the Christmas holiday will enable those staff who are ill, or who have tested positive for COVID-19 and therefore must be absent, to return feeling fit and strong in January.

The number of students absent with COVID continues to rise - the number absent due to COVID is currently sitting at 50-60, although this is still well below the peak of some 140 cases we saw on some days in October. Our thoughts are with all those students who are ill at this time; we do hope they feel better soon.

### On-site Asymptomatic Testing when returning to school in January – message from Mr Cooke, Vice Principal

As mentioned in last week's message, the government once again asked schools to conduct **one 'On-Site Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing'** of all students before they commence lessons at the start of the spring term. This will **not involve a staggered start to term**, as it has done on previous occasions, as we are trialling a quicker system for supervised voluntary self-testing. This new system is possible as most students are now more familiar with performing the self-swabbing process, due to the regular twice-weekly testing which is in place. An outline of the new revised On-Site Testing process is as follows:

- All students will attend school at the normal time on Wednesday 5 January 2022, in line with published term dates
- All students and staff will be required to wear face masks at all times, from entering on to site, until all the testing is completed by approximately 10am
- Students go immediately to the 'testing-area' allocated for their Year Group:
  - Year 7 – Dance Studio
  - Year 8 – Gym
  - Year 9 – Sports Hall (near side)
  - Year 10 – PAC
  - Year 11 – Sports Hall (far side)
  - Sixth Form – The Old Dining Room in the House
- The students are likely to be required to wait outside for a period of time, whatever the weather, so should be wearing appropriate clothing for cold and wet weather as well as their face covering
- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 3 months or do not have parental consent for testing should go to their form room instead - here is the link to the testing consent forms if you now wish to give consent: [Lateral Flow Device Test Consent Form - January 2021](#)
- Students will be monitored by trained testers whilst they perform the self-swabbing process
- Students then return to their tutor room until 10am
- After the appropriate time has elapsed, students will record their test result themselves on the school's Test-Register system. All they need to do is access their school email account using their mobile phone
- Test results will also be checked and recorded by the students' tutors. This will act as back-up in case a student is unable to log the result themselves (by using their mobile phone)
- Any student who tests positive will be sent to a designated outdoor area and will need to leave school as soon as possible. Parents will be contacted to arrange this
- Lessons will commence once all students who are doing the self-testing have completed the process. This is planned to be by 10am, the start of Period 2
- More specific details about the process will be shared with students before the end of term

This is a very significant logistical process involving the whole school. Thus we are very grateful to our 'Testing Volunteers' who have assisted on previous occasions. We are **now seeking more volunteers to add to the team**. If you are willing and able to help, you would need to complete the online training (approximately 4 hours) and then be available to volunteer your time to attend school on Wednesday morning, 5 January 2022, between 8am and approximately 10.30am. We envisage that the government is likely to ask schools to carry out this testing process at the start of each term over the next year and possibly longer, hence we would appreciate more assistance. If you are interested in joining the volunteer team then please email Mrs Lowe [flowe@hbk.acesmat.uk](mailto:flowe@hbk.acesmat.uk) to receive further details and a link to the online training. Thank you very much.

**The Christmas Voucher Scheme (Free School Meals)** – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice Principal  
*(This is a copy of the message that was previously posted on Friday 3 December)*

Once again, Cambridgeshire County Council will be sending out FSM vouchers to those who are eligible to cover the Christmas break. Each eligible family will receive a £30 voucher on Friday 17 December 2021. If there are any issues, please email [winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Cambridgeshire County Council is also offering wider support for those not eligible for FSM but do need more support including fuel, clothing and food requirements. Please see the letter, FAQs and video for more information. If you do not currently claim for Free School Meals but want to know if you may be eligible and how to apply, please see the information attached.

## HBK Community Choir

Many thanks to Mrs Cooke from the school's Music Department who leads the HBK Community Choir. It was good to hear the choir bringing Christmas cheer to the Godmanchester Christmas market last Friday. Here is the article <https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/godmanchester-celebrates-christmas-at-festive-market-8543210>



[Christmas market returns to Godmanchester after pandemic | Hunts Post](https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/godmanchester-celebrates-christmas-at-festive-market-8543210)

The sight of youngsters marking the start of Christmas festivities at Godmanchester was "uplifting" according to town mayor Cllr Cliff Thomas. Townspeople gathered at School Hill for the traditional Christmas market which was back after a year's break caused by the pandemic. Mulled cider made with ...

[www.huntspost.co.uk](https://www.huntspost.co.uk)

## Vacancies at HBK



### Senior IT Technician

Hinchingbrooke 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 Hinchingbrooke School. Please click the link [Senior IT Technician](#) further information and details of how to apply. Closing date for applications: **Tuesday 11 January 2022**

### Site Officer

Hinchingbrooke 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](http://www.acesacademies.co.uk/vacancies)

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

## This week's blog

This week's blog covers the question of the right balance between challenge and support in school leadership. If you would like to read it, you can find it here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=313>

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

**Mark Patterson**  
Principal