



## HBK Update, Friday 29 April 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your HBK Friday update.

### A level Music Recitals – Wow!

I had the pleasure of watching our A level students giving recitals yesterday evening! What a dedicated, talented, positive and lovely group of young people! Every piece was great! And I loved how they all supported each other – you could feel their care for each other. So impressive! Congratulations to them all, and huge thanks to their parents and to the Music department staff who support them so well! Here's a photo that Mr Cooke took last night:



### From Good to Great update

In last week's ParentMail, I quizzed you on aspects of the 'Big Picture' of the school; I hope you had a go at the quiz, and that you did well! The Senior Team is currently having detailed discussions about next steps on our school's journey **From Good to Great**. These are what are emerging from our discussions as the key priorities that will help us get to Great – these are in no particular order at the moment, and indeed they could well change, but I just wanted to give you a flavour.

1. Students' behaviour needs to be outstanding
2. Student, staff and parent voice should systematically inform school leaders work on improving the school
3. Students' achievement in all key stages needs to be at least good in all subjects
4. Teaching needs to be always at least good in all subjects
5. The work of all school leaders needs to be joined up
6. We can do more to 'invest' in our staff

Once the **Good to Great** priorities are decided, they will need to be built into the School Development Plan (SDP) for 2022-23 and beyond. The SDP already has some other priorities that are likely to remain relevant going forward. I will update you again when this work is more advanced.

## GCSE and A Level Examinations, Summer 2022 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

All students in Years 11 and 13 are **expected to continue to attend their lessons until 27<sup>th</sup> May**. This decision has been made due to the interrupted learning experience of our students because of the pandemic in recent years. We fully appreciate that there are students who are anxious and wish to revise on their own, but we are of the opinion that student's welfare and educational needs are best met in the classroom until this point. The exams themselves start on 16<sup>th</sup> May, so to ensure that students are in the right frame of mind and have had the very best advice right up until the last minute we have organised a 'Masterclass' before each KS4 and KS5 exam. Students will receive this as a timetable next week.

**After half term** lessons for Year 11 and 13 will cease. Instead, students will be invited to the Masterclass which will proceed their next exam in that subject according to their need. For example, the GCSE Mathematics Paper 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> June, will be preceded by a Masterclass on 6<sup>th</sup> June from 11:20-1:20pm. Those students for whom we feel this would be of most benefit will receive an invite to this session.

We hope all students are able to make the most of these opportunities and thank you in advance for your support with these arrangements.

All Year 11 students should have received their notification of entry today and students in Year 13 will receive this on Tuesday. This is a slip confirming the examinations they are entered for. If there are any issues they **MUST** speak to Mrs Grantham (Exams Officer) who can be found in the Admin Building.

## Parent Focus Group - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal



Our next Parent Focus Group meeting will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm in Hinchingsbrooke House Library. We will be discussing the Home School Agreement following on from our last meeting on behaviour. We will then be discussing Diversity and will be joined by one of our 'Diversity Champions', Miss Zander. The discussion question will be: **How far has Hinchingsbrooke come on its Diversity journey and how do we continue improving inclusivity?**

If you did not previously attend the Parent Focus Group but would like to attend this meeting, you are more than welcome! Please email Mrs Lowe on [Flowe@hbk.acesmat.uk](mailto:Flowe@hbk.acesmat.uk) to confirm your attendance. You can find the notes from our last meeting on our website here: [Hinchingsbrooke School - HBK Parent/Carer Focus Group](#)

## Are you interested in the history of Hinchingsbrooke House? – message from Mr Wheeley, Teacher of History

Over Easter we were pleased to welcome the Montagu family back to Hinchingsbrooke! Julie Montagu (the current Viscountess Hinchingsbrooke) is an American who has married into the family and is currently recording her second series on English country houses. This series will include three of four episodes on their ancestral home – Hinchingsbrooke! The visit saw John Montagu (the current Earl of Sandwich), and his siter Kate return to their childhood home (they're now both in their 70s but lived at the House until they were 12 and 10 respectively until they left in 1955). It was amazing to listen to the memories they had of the building and the estate, and of life in a stately home at a time of massive social change. It really reminded me how lucky we are to have a school here,...

The series is being aired via Youtube, the first episode can be seen here. More to follow in the coming weeks....!



<https://youtu.be/sxeUe4R3YjA>

How we LOST our CASTLE... Hinchingsbrooke House Part 1

45,677 views • Premiered on 23 Apr 2022

👍 3K 👎 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ➦ SAVE ...

## **Cannabis Edibles – this is a message that the Cambridgeshire Local Authority has asked schools to pass on to parents**

Below (in italics) is a message from our Public Health team and the Police in relation to Cannabis edibles. And here is the supporting image: [Cannabis Edibles](#)

*We are raising awareness to parents and young people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to the harms of ‘cannabis edibles’. Cannabis edibles are foods/sweets/cakes/chewing gum that contain THC, a derivative of cannabis.*

*Cannabis edibles are illegal and can be really strong, they are not regulated, meaning anyone taking them could face an unknown consequence. The products are cleverly packaged to a professional standard, designed to look like authentic confectionary products and therefore particularly appealing to young people. Although cannabis edibles may contain cannabis, they do not always have the smell or appearance of cannabis. Instead, they look and smell like a normal branded shop bought item but can be much stronger than other cannabis products. We are also aware of vapes that may contain cannabis products that could also be harmful.*

*There have been local incidents whereby young people have become unwell after eating sweets, chocolates, lollies, chewing gum, gummies or other products. Sadly, a recent death in London is being linked to cannabis edibles, the product potentially containing a cannabis related product.*

*We urge parents and young people to be vigilant and to have conversations about the risks of taking products that they do not know as being trustworthy, and therefore, are deemed as unregulated. These products are easily accessible for sale both on the internet and locally. These products (including vapes) have a high risk of unpredictability of health consequences; some edible products take time to take effect, other products may take immediate effect. Regardless, the consequence could have a life-threatening impact to your child.*

*The police continue to work with schools and local communities to inform parents of this ongoing concern.*

*For further information on cannabis please visit this national website [www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis](http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis)*

## **Rhythm Nation Dance Show DVD – message from Ms Phillips, Head of Dance**



The DVD of the dance show Rhythm Nation, priced at £11, is now ready for order. All dances from the evenings will be featured on the DVD.

If you would like to order a copy, please use the ParentMail system to complete your purchase. If there are any problems with the purchase, please contact the Finance Office [finance@acesmat.uk](mailto:finance@acesmat.uk)

The order deadline for this is 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

When the DVD orders arrive in school, I will hand them out to the relevant students.

## **This week's blog**

This week's blog is about what many HBK teachers do superbly well: just 'banging on' at making learning stick. If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=644>

***We are HBK.***

Best wishes

Mark Patterson  
Principal