



HBK Update, Friday 17 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Festive greetings from Mr Patterson!!

Welcome to your last HBK update of the Autumn term! Thank you very much for reading our weekly updates; the Friday HBK Update email is a simple way for the school to keep you up to date on the main events that are happening, and key information that we think you need to know. I do hope you find these updates useful.



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

All students were recently provided with two boxes of Lateral Flow home test kits in order to have sufficient tests to continue with twice-weekly testing over the Christmas break. We greatly appreciate students continuing with this routine and submitting the results on the school's 'TestRegister' system. In addition to the twice-weekly tests, students should complete a **LF test at home on the morning of Wednesday 5 January**, before coming into school. Any asymptomatic student who tests positive at home will then be saved the inconvenience of needing to be collected from school after the on-site testing process has been completed. Details of the on-site testing programme, taking place on Wednesday 5 January, have been shared with the students and were included in last week's ParentMail (HBK Update, Friday 10 December 2021).

The government is advising that the Omicron variant is highly likely to be a significant issue in schools after the Christmas break. Therefore, the Covid-19 mitigations which we currently have will remain in place for the start of next term, in January. So students will be required to bring to school their own **bottle of hand sanitiser** and a **face covering** to wear in the indoor communal areas. Thank you to all parents who have ensured that their child(ren) are equipped with these items. Unfortunately, over the past two months too many students have not been bothering to bring a face covering, resulting in the school needing to purchase a considerable number from our own funds. From January, the school will no longer be able to provide face coverings free of charge, so a student's ParentPay account will be charged 50p whenever a face covering is provided for them. This is the same system that was in place last year.

Public Exams in January 2022 – update from Ms Nightingale, Vice Principal

The government have confirmed that at this stage the public examinations scheduled to take place after Christmas will be going ahead as planned. Should that situation change, for example as a result of a change in Government policy over the Christmas holiday, we will update you immediately.

We also intend at this stage to run our Year 10 RPE 'Mocks'. If Covid case numbers are high, we will move to our Plan B for the Mocks, which involves holding them in smaller locations.

Teaching and Learning – update from Ms Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal

A huge thank you for your support this term with our teaching and learning initiatives! The Ofsted inspection team were very impressed to hear about our focus on developing knowledge and they were equally impressed when talking to our students to see their use of the Knowledge Organisers and Self-Quizzing Books. In our latest Self-Quizzing Book scrutiny, last week, it was very pleasing to see the amount of self-quizzing work completed so far by students, and we are confident that should they maintain this work ethic, they will reap the results of their hard work in the long term.

Have a wonderful break and see you in the New Year with the same high expectations for Hard Work and High Achievement!

Ofsted Inspection report update

I contacted Ofsted on Wednesday this week to find out where our final inspection report is, given that it has been more than a month since the inspection. The administrator I spoke to told me that Ofsted plan to publish the final report at the start of next term. As soon as we have it, I will forward it to you.

Colleagues who are leaving at the end of this term

We say goodbye to:

Ms E Wright – Ms Wright started on 20 April 2020 as a Level 3 Teaching Assistant in the SEND department. She is now returning to a teaching role in a Primary School.

Mr B Palmer – Mr Palmer started on 22 September 2021 as a Teacher of English covering for maternity leave. He has now secured a permanent role at another school.

Mr P Stokes – Mr Stokes started at HBK on 1 September 2015 as a Teaching Assistant. He started teaching as an Unqualified Teacher of English from September 2016, and then completed the qualification to teach before starting as a newly-qualified Teacher of English from September 2017.

These colleagues leave with our very best wishes for their next chapter.

Colleagues who are joining us in January 2022

Ms L Sparrow - Full time Teacher of English

Ms E Cortazan-Portillo – Full Time Teacher of MFL

Mr M Mudoh - Full Time Teacher of Maths

Ms P Hanson - Part time Teacher of English (covering Maternity)

We look forward to welcoming these colleagues to the HBK Team.

Sixth Form update – message from Mrs Rix, Director of Sixth Form, and the Sixth Form Team

We have had a very busy time in the Sixth Form this half-term and well done to all of our students for their resilience and grit! Year 13s are completing their Mock exams and many of them are in the process of applying to university. Those who are deciding to apply for an apprenticeship will receive continued support throughout the year.

Year 12 have had a fantastic first term! They should all be so proud of their achievements. The reports from their teachers show Year 12 students are approaching their studies in a conscientious and diligent manner. Over 60 students have already achieved Tier 1 for Private Study meaning that they are demonstrating all the qualities we would expect from an independent Sixth Form learner, which is very impressive!

Please make sure that your child is familiar with the requirements for the first day back after the holidays. We wish you all restful break from the Sixth Form Team.

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 and Friday 10 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. 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 Christmas “Snowman” Concert

We held our wonderful “Snowman” Christmas concert last week. I would like to thank all of the amazing performers. A big thank you to the music department and everyone else who was involved in making it happen. Well done to you all!



Vacancies



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 friends and family who may be interested!

This week's blog

This week's blog is entitled 'Gifted, talented, more able, and all that...' If you would like to read it, you can find it here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=344>

A big thank you to our parents and carers for everything you do to support your child(ren) and the school. In continually testing times, you have risen superbly to the challenge!

I very much hope you are able to enjoy some rest and some good times over this Christmas holiday. Have a very happy Christmas!

We are HBK.

Mark Patterson
Principal