



## HBK Update, Friday 16 September 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope the school year has started well for your child; senior staff and the pastoral team are certainly very pleased with our students' strong start to the school year – it was very evident when we held our Fire Drill Period 1 this morning – 2000 students behaving impeccably on the school field was a pleasure to see!

### School closure on Monday 19 September

The school will be closed next Monday 19 September, as it is a bank holiday in commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We will reopen as normal on Tuesday 20 September.

### Message for parents of new Year 7 students – from Mr Milner, Head of Year 7

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at HBK! We have been very impressed with how well they have settled into the routines, and they have risen quickly to the demands of secondary school life! One thing we would appreciate parental support with is mobile phones: we ask that should your child call you during the school day to report they are unwell, unhappy or have another issue, please advise them to come to speak with their tutor and/or the Lower School team. This way, it will avoid you being worried unnecessarily, and it will likely lead to a quick resolution to the situation. We will always contact parents where we feel it is warranted. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

### Cashless Catering Update – message from Mr McMillan, ACES Director of Finance

Over the summer holidays, our cashless catering partner brought the payment system in-house for the majority of the schools they work with. Despite successful onsite testing and integration, following implementation the system has failed to integrate with many schools since the summer holidays, including our school. Essentially, any changes that schools make to the data used by the catering system is not currently 'synced' between systems. This issue affects Cashless Catering for any student that started at Hinchingbrooke School since 1<sup>st</sup> September – so it affects all of our Year 7 students, plus anyone else who has joined in other year groups. We are working closely with our caterers and system providers to resolve this matter as soon as possible. In the interim, no affected student will be declined food as a result of insufficient funds until the situation is resolved. Once we have fixed the issue, we will inform you how funds should be added to clear any debt raised. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

### Dropping off and picking up students by car – reminder not to use the School Bus Bays at key times

Some parents and carers are using the school bus bays (the space used by buses before and after school to drop off and collect HBK students) to drop off and collect their children, when the buses are there or due to be there. This is causing a hazard as the buses need the whole bay in which to manoeuvre, and any car parked in the bus bays while the buses are there is creating a safety risk. **Please do not use the bus bays while the buses are using them.** Using the bays before the buses drop off in the morning – for example, between 8 and 8.10am – and after the buses have departed in the afternoon – that is, after about 3.40 – is, of course, not a problem. Thank you for supporting us in this, in the interests of everyone's safety.

### Key Stage 3 Success Evening - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Information has been sent to parents this week about this event. The purpose of the event is to share our key strategies with you as parents/carers so we are able to forge a strong working relationship that we hope will support your child's success here at HBK. If you are planning to attend any workshops, please complete the form (link in blue below) by **midday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. Thank you. <https://forms.office.com/r/gxDjZpxA0u>

### Key Stage 4 Success Evening - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The date for this event is now confirmed as **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022** - please save the date! More information coming soon!

### Arbor\* Behaviour logs - message from Mrs Tandy

We are pleased with how well students and staff are adapting to the new behaviour system. Last week 89% of the behaviour incidents recorded were positive - indeed students collectively earned 6,183 Recognition Points in four days (five days for Year 7). This is fantastic and we are ensuring students know how proud we are of their achievements! In terms of negative logs in the first week, just over half of these were for uniform infringements (for example, rolled-up skirts is a common one) – however, we have already seen a noticeable improvement in standards of uniform this week, which is very pleasing.

*\*ARBOR is the name of our school Management Information System*

### News from the Sixth Form – from Ms Rix, Head of Sixth Form

A reminder that the Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11s is on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September** from 5-7pm. You are most welcome to come along with your child to hear about our curriculum, our Sixth Form community and why HBK Sixth Form is the number one choice for the vast majority of our Year 11 students – and many others!

### Early school finish for all students on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – message from Ms Rix, Head of Sixth Form

This is so that staff can prepare for the Sixth Form Open Evening on this day. Students will be dismissed at 1.20pm and the HBK school buses / taxis will be arranged to take them home at this time. For any parent for whom this is inconvenient, please contact your child's Year Team Student Support Officer and we will be able to supervise your child until the normal end of the school day at 3.15 (but please note, there will be no 3.15pm buses on the day, as they will have already done their pick-up at 1.20-1.30pm).

### NHS England letter for schools/families about possible Flu vaccinations this school year

The NHS have sent us an Influenza (Nasal Flu) Immunisation Secondary School Update. You can read it here: [Immunisation Letter](#)

### One-Minute silence in school today

We held a one-minute silence this morning, to enable everyone to pay their respects to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Needless to say, the silence was observed beautifully by our students.



We are Hinchingsbrooke.

**Mark Patterson**  
**Principal**