



HBK Update, Friday 11 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 update

As of yesterday (Thursday), we had 15 reported positive cases of COVID – this is the lowest number of positive cases in a very long time! We also have only a small number of staff off for COVID-related reasons, although non-COVID staff absence through illness remains higher than in some previous years. We are planning to resume face to face assemblies and some face-to-face events (such as our dance event, 'IndepenDance') from the start of next half term but we will of course monitor our COVID situation closely and look at each event as it approaches, in line with Government guidance.

New Parent Governor for HBK!

I am delighted to tell you that following the recent election, Lynne Milton will be our new Parent Governor. Lynne has 2 children at the school. Here again, for information, is the personal statement that Lynne wrote as part of the governor election process:

I am particularly interested in the mental health and wellbeing of students and staff, in supporting schools to attend to wellbeing so that students can make the most of the good teaching that is provided. I am the Clinical and Team Lead for the Mental Health Support Team in Huntingdon – a project that supports other schools in the area with developing and implementing a robust response to mental health and wellbeing. I liaise with 'Wellbeing Governors' and so have an understanding of how important it is to support, encourage and prompt senior leaders to develop best practice in this area because this improves outcomes for students in all areas.

I am a Family Psychotherapist and social worker by training and have had a career in CAMH and social care settings. I have additional responsibilities for training and tutoring other family therapists and in this capacity have worked universities and colleges to develop and maintain training courses that meet required standards. In recent years I have been a leader in the Scouts and Cubs program and have supported churches with holiday schemes and youth groups.

Summer Exams and Advance Information – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice-Principal

On Monday (7 February) exams boards released the advance information for this summer's exams. This information is a list of topics which will definitely be on the exam papers this summer. Departments are currently looking at how this information will impact on assessments and their teaching going forward. Once decisions have been made this will of course be shared with the students and yourselves. Please be aware that other topics could also be tested in the summer examinations (lower tariff questions) and that in some subjects topics not listed will need to be revised in order to ensure a fuller comprehension of the topics which are listed in the advance information document. More information to come after half term.

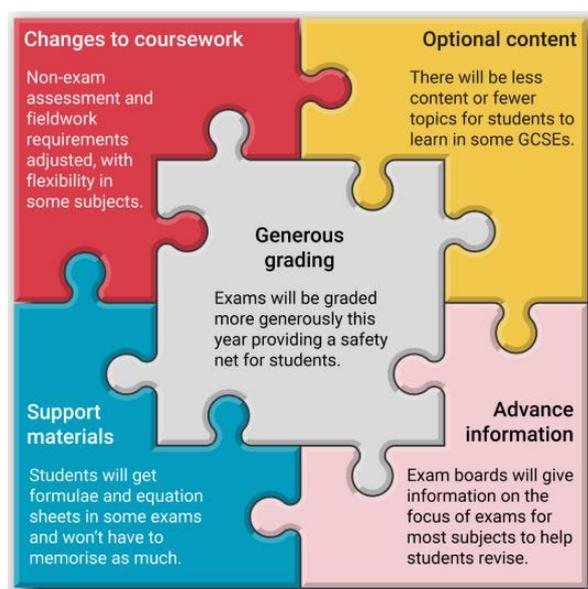
There is also a letter from Dr Jo Saxton, the Chief Regulator at Ofqual, about the [summer exams](#), that we have emailed to your child's Hinchingbrooke email address – please do let them know about it.

Year 11 Mocks - message from Miss Nightingale, Vice-Principal

All Year 11 students will sit their second 'Mocks' in the week after half term (21 – 25 February 2022). The exams will include English Literature, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Business Studies.

Students have already received their individual timetables and a generic timetable is on our website here: <https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/site/data/files/anna-grantham/CF747DD48FA9076AD6B187CA11A42662.pdf>

Students should use their half term to prepare, in addition to ensuring they get an opportunity to recharge their batteries – a difficult balance to achieve, I know! An announcement from the government this week made it clear that exams are **only** likely to be cancelled if there is a further public health emergency, but we are still required to continue collecting evidence for 'Plan B' should this be required. A reminder of all the support for this years' exams:



Teaching and learning update – message from Mrs Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal

Very well done to all our students for their teaching and learning work and their achievements this half term! A great example of this is the way our Year 10 students have managed their recent assessments - very impressive! This short break is happening at the perfect time for them!

Another highlight has been our recent Self-Quizzing Book Scrutiny, which has shown great improvements in the completion of Self-Quizzing Homework across all year groups, and also an improvement in the quality of self-quizzing - the majority of books showed regular instances of repeated work and this focused practice should pay off in the long-term.

Our next focus is to ensure that **all** students do check with their green pens that the writing work they have completed is accurate; and if it isn't, that they make the appropriate corrections. This is a key part of the system that cannot be missed out, as the checking shows whether the learning is starting to stick, and it also helps them to fill any gaps.

As always, **thank you** all for your continuing support and have a great half-term!

National Tutoring Programme - message from Miss Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Thank you for all the parents who have supported their child(ren) who are applying for the extra round of tutoring. Students will be informed straight after half term if they have been successful, and the programme will start in the week beginning **28 February**. Letters confirming which tutoring will take place, when and for whom will be sent out shortly - we are just waiting for the tutoring company to confirm which nights the different subjects will be on. For those students already having tutoring sessions, these will pause for the first week back due to the Mocks but will resume in the week beginning **28 February**.

National Apprenticeship Week – The HBK Careers Team



Anyone looking for more information regarding the Apprenticeship route into a career may wish to visit this excellent resource from our partners at START - <https://careers.startprofile.com/page/employer-overview>.

It contains information from employers, current apprentices and recruiters from a wide range of national businesses. This ranges from Level 1 to Degree Level and beyond. An ideal place to start thinking about the exciting opportunities out there for our students. You may wish to look at this with your child.

The HBK Careers Team



Free School Meals over Half Term - message from Miss Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Information was sent out earlier this week via ParentMail about the voucher scheme being relaunched for the half term break for those families who claim free school meals. Please click on the links to get more information: [Letter](#) and [FAQ](#)

Vouchers will be sent today (Friday 11 February).

This week's blog

This week's blog is my take on some **key learner characteristics** that benefit young people's learning, and some simple ways of measuring them. If you would like to read it, it's here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=536>

We are HBK.

Mark Patterson
Principal