



## HBK Update, Friday 21 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

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

From yesterday (*Thursday 20 January*), we removed the expectation for face coverings to be worn in classrooms, in line with the Government's and Department for Education's (DfE) recent guidance issued on Wednesday 19 January. The expectation to wear face coverings in indoor communal areas (*e.g. corridors, medical room and queues for food*) remains in place for the time being, although we are expecting further Government/DfE guidance shortly. The Local Authority have informed us that they will be sending new guidance to all schools soon, and we will also need to consider their advice when we have it. We expect to be able to update you again by Wednesday 26 January.

The number of positive cases of Covid-19 in school remains comparatively low, thankfully, despite a sharp increase this week in other education settings in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region. We will continue to monitor the Hinchingbrooke situation carefully. Thank you for your ongoing support; it is very important that students continue to test at home twice a week, or more frequently if needed (*e.g. when the student has been in close contact with a positive case*).

Yesterday (Thursday 20 January), a ParentMail was sent out which had an [isolation guidance sheet](#) attached, which helps to explain the circumstances under which a student may leave the 10 day isolation period early, when they have tested positive for Covid-19. In that ParentMail there was also some information about a [Flu Immunisation Catch-Up session](#) that will run next week, on **Tuesday 25 January**. If your child has not had a flu immunisation and would like one, then please see that ParentMail for the details.

### School Development Plan (SDP) 2021-22 update

Our key focuses in the current plan are to improve the behaviour of a small minority of students, and to embed the key curriculum changes we made from September 2021. The key changes we made last September were: embedding the Hinchingbrooke Approach to Teaching across the school; creating and using Knowledge Organisers in Years 7 to 11; and – linked to Knowledge Organisers - embedding the changes to how homework is done at HBK. We have also been reviewing our school curriculum and we had been planning to commission an external evaluation of the curriculum this school year – external evaluation has now been achieved through the November 2021 Ofsted inspection. There is no better external validation of the school's curriculum than a positive judgement of it through an Ofsted inspection, not least because the quality of a school's curriculum is a key focus in the current Ofsted inspection framework.

### Responding to the school's Ofsted inspection report

We received our final Ofsted inspection report on 4 January, and we sent it to you in the HBK Update of Friday 7 January. The inspection report confirmed that Hinchingbrooke remains a 'Good' school but it also highlighted a number of strengths of the school and identified areas for improvement. The areas for improvement were that 1) Students' achievement in some subjects should be better (this judgement is based on the 2019 examination results data, as that was the last time we had formal external examinations) and 2) The behaviour of a small minority of students falls below the high standards we expect of all students. Both of those judgements were accurate, and improving behaviour and achievement already feature in our School

Development Plan, but we are revisiting these areas to see what more we can do to bring about improvement. More generally, our school focus will shift from achieving the inspection confirmation of 'Good' (since that is now achieved) to planning how we might move **From Good to Great** over the next 3-4 years. The work that Kate Tandy, Vice-Principal, is leading on in relation to student, parent and staff voice and how we use it to improve the school (The use of focus groups and 'You said we did' etc...) will be important in helping us move From Good to Great.

**HBK Community Surveys - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal**

In case you missed last week's note about the student, parent and carer survey results, you can now find this document on our website here: <https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=HBK+Surveys&pid=943>



[Hinchingbrooke School - HBK Surveys](https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=HBK+Surveys&pid=943)

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The Senior Leadership Team have already started discussing the comments and feedback provided and we will be responding to each area over the coming weeks, so watch this space!

If you have not seen our current Fortnightly Focus poster on Twitter (@HBK\_School), it contained just some of the many positive comments that students gave in their survey responses:



# We are Hinchingbrooke

**'RESPECT'**  
Yourself  
Others  
Your School

**I really like Hinchingbrooke because...**

It's a school with lots of opportunities	The facilities are great. I feel like I am learning a lot in lessons		It has a variety of things to do in and outside of lessons – teachers are fun	I feel really safe and it's a kind school
The staff are passionate about their jobs	It is supportive and I get help when I need it		You get to be independent and make your own choices	There are lots of different subjects and clubs to try
It is known for it's high standards, kindness and empathy	It is a school where everyone is happy		I have become more confident about my work	There are understanding staff who always make time to listen





## This week's blog

This week's blog is about the importance of great behaviour in school. If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=414>

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes

**Mark Patterson**

**Principal**