



HBK Update, Friday 11 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's HBK update!

HBK's Response to the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis – message from Ms Black, Associate Principal/Head of Year 13

As a school community, we are currently seeing the increasing humanitarian crisis that people of Ukraine are facing. We have members of the community who are directly affected by the situation and, as we found during the pandemic, when our community works together, we can make a difference. With this in mind, we will be combining fundraising events with asking for donations of a variety of goods. From 14-18 March, we are asking students to bring in goods to support the humanitarian effort, if they are able to. All the details are on the information sheet at the end of this ParentMail.

In the short term, we also intend to split the proceeds from our non-uniform day on 18 March 50/50 between supporting the Ukraine Crisis and Comic Relief. If you have any queries, please do contact me on cblack@hbk.acesmat.uk

Year 11 students who have been interviewed for a place in HBK Sixth Form – message from Mrs Rix, Director of Sixth Form

Students who were interviewed for Sixth Form before half-term will have received a conditional offer this week by email. Please ask your child to check that the subjects in the email match those which were offered at interview. Students who have been made an offer of a place will be regularly receiving information from us between now and the summer and we are looking forward very much to working with your child over the coming months.

Prohibited items - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We have had a small number of incidents involving e-cigarettes or vapes in school over the past few weeks and wanted to draw your attention to the matter so that you might discuss it with your child at home. Vaping involves inhaling vapour into the lungs from an electronic device. It is illegal to purchase, have possession of, or use a vape if you are under the age of 18 and as such these should not be brought into school. Whilst vapes do not contain some of the harmful substances found in cigarettes, they do still contain nicotine which is highly addictive. Furthermore, research suggests that vaping does cause long-term health damage. Indeed, vaping is covered as part of the PSHCE curriculum so that students understand the dangers of engaging in this activity.

Vape pens are small and easily concealed. Some look like highlighter pens or USB sticks and there are some examples below to help you know what to look out for. We have made students aware, and would like you to also know, that we absolutely will not tolerate this kind of behaviour at Hinchingbrooke and that any student who brings and / or uses a vape in school will incur a high-level sanction.

Please can all parents and carers be vigilant in ensuring that students are not bringing these prohibited items into school, so that we can maintain a safe environment for everyone in our school community.



Key words and phrases we use regularly at HBK, and what we mean

School Development Plan (SDP): this document sets out the key areas that we are focusing on in order to improve the school. There are always priorities related to things like improving students' progress and attainment, improving how students learn, and improving behaviour. The SDP document includes information such as the key actions we are taking, or intend to take, to bring about improvement, and the senior member of staff who is leading on them. We update the school's governors each term on our progress on the Plan.

Our Three Key Focuses: these are unlikely to change because they feel timeless: *How we teach; How we learn; and How we behave*. All schools should be focusing on great teaching, helping students learn (which of course includes teaching, but it is broader than teaching), and ensuring students behave really well. The phrases are deliberately chosen so that they can be explained in simple language to everyone.

Our Three Core Values: *Hard Work, High Standards and Kindness*. We have chosen these 3 core values as they appear to summarise very well what the school is about and should be about. Of all the great values there are, these are the ones that we choose to emphasise most when talking to our students.

Our three Student Leadership Qualities: Responsible, Empathetic, and Proud. We encourage these in our students; we promote them frequently; we provide our students with opportunities to demonstrate them; and we celebrate them.

Our one school Rule: Respect. A one-word summary of our expectations for everyone in the HBK Community. We expect everyone to respect themselves, respect others and respect our school; and we expect respect to be visible through the daily actions of people in our community.

Pi Day 2022 π – message from Mrs Gratton, Head of Maths $\pi \pi \pi \pi \pi \pi$

Everyone has their favourite or lucky number, perhaps a birthday or anniversary date. Most of these numbers are rational numbers in that they can be written as equivalent fractions, e.g. $14 = \frac{14}{1}$. Mathematicians use many different types of numbers, and one special irrational number is the Greek letter π (pronounced 'pie'). All students here at Hinchbrook will be familiar with π , as it is essential with the study of geometry and round shapes, such as circles, spheres, cones etc. In real life, π has an enormous number of uses and appearances, such as calculations of the volume of fuel in a petrol tank, to sizes of eyes, rolling out pastry, measuring the distance around athletics track and much more.

This special number π has many approximations, one such being 3.14 to 2 decimal places. On March 14th we will celebrate π Day with activities in Tutor time, such as writing names in Greek, playing π Dingbats and learning about how π plays an important part in other subjects and life. Chartwells have also kindly devised a special menu for March 14th to include a variety of sweet and savoury pies! I wish you all a happy π Day and look forward to sharing some photos next!

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Safer Schools Newsletter – sent on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Summary of subjects covered in the March edition of the newsletter:

- **Quiz Scams: Don't get hacked** – Caution regarding revealing personal information through social media
- **Child Car Seats and Belt Safety: The Law** – A reminder to parents/Carers about UK law and Safety advice
- **The World of Gaming: Parental Support** – Resources to help parents/Carers navigate and de-mystify the world of gaming
- **The Highway Code: Are you aware of the new rules** – Improved safety laws within the Highway code

Click [HERE](#) to view the full document.

Hinchingbrooke Foundation - Bursary Applications

The Hinchingbrooke Foundation is a grant-giving educational charity providing bursary funds for eligible students in the Huntingdon area, including Hinchingbrooke School. The Foundation can offer bursaries to help with costs such as trips, laptops, musical instruments. Applications are considered 3 times a year in October, January and April. Please see further details of how to apply on our website [Hinchingbrooke Foundation | Home](#).

This week's blog

This week's blog is my own brief take on leadership in schools: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=614>

Please pass on our big thank you to all our students for their efforts to make visible our three core values of Hard Work, High Standards, and Kindness.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mark Patterson
Principal

Hinchingsbrooke School's Response to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis

As a school community we are currently seeing the increasing humanitarian crisis that the people of Ukraine are facing. We have members of our community who are directly affected by the situation and, as we found during the pandemic, when our community works together, we can make a difference. With this in mind, we will be combining fundraising events with asking for donations of a variety of goods. Details of what we are doing and how you can get involved are explained below.

Can you help us collect donations please?

From Monday 14th March – Friday 18th March we are asking students if they can bring in some specific items that we can donate. There are two options:

- 1. You can make up your own package (perhaps a shoe box) that includes things from those listed below and bring this to your form room.**
Or
- 2. You can bring in individual items and put them into our collection boxes (there will be one in each form room).**

We are working with a company in Huntingdon who will then transport the goods to the areas where help is needed.

Please can we ask that you only bring in items from this list:

- Bandages
- Gauze
- Antiseptic Wipes
- First Aid Bags (just the bag)
- Soap Bars
- Body Wash
- Flannels
- Shower Gel
- Sponges
- Roll On Deodorant
- Hand Gel
- Cotton Swabs
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Non-perishable food (if canned then make sure ring pull)
- Granola Bars
- Oat Bars
- Dried Fruit
- Mixed Nuts
- Small Juice Boxes
- Small Squash Boxes
- Cat Food
- Dog Food

Can you help us fundraise please?

In the coming weeks and months we will be holding events in school which aim to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee (more information about the work they are doing can be found at <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>). These include the non-school uniform day on the 18th March. There will also be inter-house Easter Egg hunts for each year group before the end of term. Additionally, there will be donation buckets in the Reception and Sixth Form canteen.

Finally, after Easter, we are going to hold a raffle and are looking for members of our school community to donate prizes for this. If you are able to contribute a prize, please could you contact Mrs Black to discuss (cblack@hbk.acesmat.uk).