



HBK Update, Friday 27 May 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your Friday HBK update!

News from the Sixth Form – message from Mrs Rix, Director of Sixth Form

We recently asked if any parent/carers would be able/willing to come into the Sixth Form to discuss aspects of their career with some of our students. Many thanks to those of you who got in touch and we will soon be contacting you to organise the meetings! If any other parents/carers would also like to volunteer in the same way, we would be delighted to hear from you at sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk.

Criminal Barrister and District Judge Geraldine Kelly did a presentation to a large group of Sixth Formers this week about her training, work and experiences in court. This was hugely enjoyable, and in September Geraldine will also be advising students about applications to university and apprenticeships in the field of law.

The Year 12 students will be starting their 'Futures' week on 4 July. Many thanks to those parents who have encouraged their child to return their paperwork. If your child has not yet done so, please ask them to return their form to their tutor ASAP.

Our Year 12 and 13 students who have had live exams over the last two weeks have conducted themselves impeccably! Remember that if you feel your child needs any support with their well-being or managing any exam anxiety, please get in touch with their Head of Year or Mrs Edwards, our Sixth Form SSO.

National Thank a Teacher Day – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal



Yesterday was national 'Thank a teacher' day! If you would like to send a card to any of our staff, teaching or support staff, please use the link below to send your free card. We as staff always appreciate your kind words and messages - they really do make a difference!

https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Free School Meals over May Half term – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

For May half term, the county council are continuing to support families on free school meals. Eligibility remains the same as in previous rounds, including support for post 16 bursary students. Each eligible pupil will receive a single £15 voucher. Vouchers will be sent on the 27 May. If you have any voucher queries over the half term period please email winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

For more information please click on the links below:

[Parent and Carer Letter](#)

[Frequently Asked Question Document for Parents / Carers](#)

Year 11 and Year 13 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Students have now completed two weeks of the exams season and have done themselves and the school proud!

After half term there are 4 weeks of the exam season left! From 6 June there will **not be any lessons for Years 11 or 13**, but students did receive an email yesterday to invite them to Masterclasses taking place throughout the exam period. If invited, the students are expected to attend, as their class teachers are confident that they will benefit

from this. Their email will state the date, time and location of their Masterclass (only those with room numbers!). I know students will get lots out of these sessions and will also be revising and working hard in their own time.

Year 13 students are more than welcome to continue to study in the House in between exams, or indeed to come into school if this offers a more conducive environment. Year 11 are also welcome to revise in school in between exams and Masterclasses and will find the Food Court available during lesson times, along with a quiet space in the main school library. We are here to support the students through this time as best we can.

This year, a higher number of Year 11 students than ever before are regularly asking to leave the exam hall to use the facilities. We always advise students to only request to use the facilities if they feel it is absolutely necessary, as every minute counts in exams and there is inevitably a small amount of disruption when a student leaves an exam, which is exacerbated if a large number ask to leave. We would be grateful if you could reiterate this message to your child about only asking to leave if it is absolutely necessary. If you have a child currently in Year 11 and there is a medical condition we are not already aware of which would mean toilet breaks are essential for your child, please do contact the Student Support Officer to tell us. Thank you for your support in this matter and indeed for the support you are giving both your child and the school during this important time.

Parent/Carer Focus Group



The notes from our last Parent/Carer Focus Group discussions can be found on our website [Parent/Carer Focus Group - Diversity](#). Thank you again to all who attended and provided such stimulating discussion. Our next meeting will focus on safeguarding at Hinchingbrooke, in particular supporting students with their mental health. The date and time of this meeting will be communicated after half term.

Tackling vaping in school - a message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We are aware of the ongoing problem of vaping in and around our school site, which although it involves only a very small proportion of our students, is having a negative impact on the community. Despite our efforts to stop it happening, the problem is continuing, so we will be changing our approach from after May half term.

We operate a zero-tolerance approach to vaping: it is never acceptable to vape, or be involved in vaping activity, in our school. So, we intend to apply sanctions as described below if we believe, *on the balance of probability*, that a student has been involved in vaping activity. 'Being involved' includes being in possession of vaping paraphernalia and/or choosing to be in a group among which we believe vaping has taken place – for example, if there were two or three students in a toilet cubicle where vaping is very likely to have taken place, they will all receive a sanction. As you may imagine, it is actually very hard to catch someone in the act of vaping – it is often done in the toilet cubicles - which is why we intend to apply sanctions on the balance of probability. Typical sanctions will include:

- First instance of vaping or involvement in vaping activity = an SLT after-school detention
- Second instance = Day out of mainstream lessons in the school's 'Blue Room'
- Third instance = 2-day suspension

Any repeated instances of vaping after the suspension stage are likely to result in a further escalation in sanctions, as decided by the Principal and Vice-Principal, since repeated instances of the same behaviour represent defiance, which the school will not tolerate.

It is important to us that every student at Hinchingbrooke feels they can use the toilets at break and lunchtime without coming into contact with this sort of unacceptable activity, and this is the main reason why we are toughening our approach. We intend to communicate this very clear message about vaping activity to students from the first week after half term, which is why we want to ensure you are also aware of the plans now. If you are aware that your child vapes and they would like to seek support to give up, this is something we can arrange through Healthy Schools Cambridgeshire. Please contact the Student Support Officer for your child's year group to discuss in the first instance.

Please support us in our zero-tolerance approach.

Year 10 Work Experience – message from Mr O'Shaughnessy, CEIAG Manager



Once again please accept our gratitude and appreciation for those who have been able to assist our students in finding work placements – given the ever-changing economic and work environments, to have over 90% of the year group placed is a fantastic achievement. Thank you.

Activities for those without a Full Placement

To assist with students unable to find an opportunity for all or part of the two weeks, we have put together a series of careers-based activities to cover the entire period. These are available on Teams in the assignment section and on the main channel of the Year 10 Work Experience folder. There are webinars, live employer interaction opportunities (some need to be signed into and booked prior to the session, so please allow plenty of time), videos, blogs, podcasts and a number of interactive resources available to all students, parents/carers. Tutors will check engagement/involvement when back in school. There is also a link to the resources on the school website - [Year 10 Work Experience 2022 resources](#)

Those with a Placement

Additionally, I would encourage all students to explore the resources above as there are some very useful materials available allowing everyone to gain an insight into a variety of career pathways/job roles. While on placement students are expected to complete the **Work Experience Booklet** their tutor has allocated to them. This will also form part of the tutorial activities upon return to school.

Emergency Phone Number

In the unlikely event of an emergency during the work placement please contact – **07808 524425**
The number is for emergency use only please.

Absence during Work Placements

Please use the standard school format to report any absence during Work Experience by using our main school number - 01480 375700 and following the instructions.

Work experience placements can and usually do provide a very influential learning experience for our students which has been sorely missed over the last three years. Early in Year 11 students will be encouraged to begin thinking about their Post-16 options and these two weeks can have a major impact on that decision-making process so once again thank you very much for helping to make it happen.

Hinchingbrooke School Sports Awards 2022 – message from Mr Turnbull, Head of PE

Please note that the closing date for all nominations is approaching fast!! If you would still like to nominate someone you know for this prestigious school event, you only have until Friday 10 June to do so. Nominations can be made by filling in the attached form and scanning it back to us at: sportsawards@hbk.acesmat.uk

Please see the [HBK Sports Awards Letter](#) explaining the nomination process along with the [nomination form](#). Should you have any more questions about the event please do not hesitate to contact me at: jturnbull@hbk.acesmat.uk
Please note that only nominations made using the attached form can be counted.

This Week's blog

This week's blog explains why 'chatting' in class is not a good thing! If you would like to read it, you can find it here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=663>

Wishing you all a great half-term!

We are HBK.

Mark Patterson
Principal