



HBK Update, Friday 28 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your Friday HBK Update!

COVID-19 update – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

The number of cases among our students remains low – averaging 30-40 per day currently, or 1.58-2.1% of our number on roll; unfortunately, the number of positive cases has risen amongst HBK staff in the past week. In case you missed it, below in italics is the key section from the 'COVID Mitigations' ParentMail we sent on Wednesday of this week. The Cambridgeshire Local Authority have also written to us to say that they **recommend at this time** that students who travel by bus continue to wear a face covering when they are on the bus (unless exempt). This recommendation is because of the generally high number of COVID cases in our region.

Please ensure that your child continues to carry out **twice-weekly Lateral Flow (LF) Tests** and then submit the results on the school's Test Register system. Once the test result is submitted there is then a link to the government system that can be used for recording the result on their system as well. Whatever the day of the week, if your child is feeling under the weather we would greatly appreciate them taking a LF test **before coming to school**. Regular testing helps to minimise the spread of the virus. A box of test kits can be collected from the Lower/Middle School office whenever required. Thank you for all your support with ensuring that the testing continues.

From Thursday 27 January the government no longer recommends face coverings in communal areas in schools. This decision comes in response to national infection data, not local figures, which shows that the prevalence of Covid-19 is on a downward trajectory. The current levels of Covid-19 in Hinchingbrooke School remain low, with less than 10 cases in each year group; but the overall school figure is not as low as it was throughout the month of November 2021. So we will be taking a staged approach to removing certain Covid-19 mitigations which we currently have in place:

- *From Thursday 27 January, the requirement to wear **face masks** in indoor communal areas **will be removed**. Students and staff can still wear masks around school and in lessons if they choose to do so*
- *Students should continue to carry out **twice-weekly LF testing** and submit the results on our TestRegister system. If students have been in close contact with a positive case then they should conduct the LF tests daily. More test kits can be collected from the Lower/Middle School Office*
- *Students should continue to bring a **small bottle of sanitiser** to school and use it regularly throughout the day*
- *We will continue to ensure that the school is as **well ventilated as possible**, with doors and windows open, so students should wear additional layers and will be allowed to wear their coat in class when it is cold*
- *After half-term, from Monday 21 February 2022, **assemblies** will return to being conducted in person in the PAC – provided nothing has happened between now and then that suggests a different decision*

The school will continue to monitor the number of positive Covid-19 cases closely. If the numbers should increase significantly, whole school or within a year group, then mitigations may be reintroduced despite there not being any specific recommendations nationally. In such circumstances we liaise closely with the local authority. Thank you for the support that you give your child(ren) in complying with the mitigations that we have in place.

Progress Reports in Year 9 – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

We sent the Year 9 students' Progress Reports to parents this week. These were sent electronically to the email addresses that were provided to us when your child joined HBK. If you have not received this report, please email reports@hbk.acesmat.uk and we will ensure a copy is sent to you as soon as possible.

Year 10 Assessments – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

The assessments start in lessons on **Monday 31st January** and run for two weeks. Students should have all filled their timetables in according to the information from their subject teachers, and they should also have been informed of the content they need to revise. All assessments are no longer than 40 minutes (unless a student is entitled to extra time). Those students who use a laptop or reader pen will collect these from their nearest hub (Middle School or Basecamp) at the start of each day during the assessment period. This is the opportunity for students to show us what they know and can do. So good luck to all our Year 10 students!

The Year 10 Art exams will take place on Wednesday 23rd February.

[Year 10 Assessment Timetable](#)

Year 11 Second Mocks – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

Year 11 students will have an opportunity to complete a second set of exams in a formal setting for their English Literature, Maths, Sciences, Geography and Business courses. These will take place in the exam hall during the week beginning **21st February**. You will be able to find the timetable for the exams on the school website from early next week. Subject staff will inform students which papers will feature in this round of mock exams. Generally, the papers are those which they did not sit in the first round of Mocks.

Tutoring and Easter School – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

We currently offer the National Tutoring Programme to some of our Year 11 students in English (Literature and Language), Maths and all Sciences. We are currently offering this again to students who are able to stay after school for two nights a week for a 7-week period (dates to be confirmed). Please have a discussion with your child to see if this is something they think they would benefit from and would willingly sign up to. If the answer is yes, **they** need to contact Miss Nightingale. We will need to know what subject and, where relevant, what level (Foundation or Higher) and in the case of English Literature, which texts they have studied.

We are also in the process of organising an Easter School. A range of subjects will be running study days over the first week of the Easter holidays (4th - 8th April) which students will be able to apply for a place on. So save the date and more information will follow after the half term break.

The New National Careers Service – message from the HBK Careers Team

The new service, recently launched, covers all pathways students may wish to consider, including Higher and Vocational Technical Levels, apprenticeships, traineeships and internships.



Please have a look here: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>
There are also Careers Advisers available for one-to-one live chats.

UCAS update – message from Ms Black, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

On Wednesday 26th January the UCAS deadline for this cycle passed and I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all the Year 13 students who have made an application. The standard of applications this year has been very high! 80% of the Year 13s have made an application, and it is only with the generous support of parents and staff, that the process runs so smoothly. A massive thank you to everyone involved. We now support those students awaiting university offers and we continue to work with students who have chosen other Post 18 pathways.

Parent Governor Vacancy - Ballot

We are pleased to confirm that we have received 3 valid nominations for Parent Governor. As we have just 1 vacancy, we need to hold a secret ballot of parents. **Voting is on the basis of one vote per parent/carer**, irrespective of how many of your children attend the school. Please note that only parents or adults with legal parental responsibility can vote.

The role of governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, providing support and challenge. When making your voting decision, you should bear in mind the core strategic functions of a governing body:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance; and
- Overseeing the school's financial performance and making sure money is well spent.

After reading the personal statements overleaf, you can vote by using the [online ballot form](#) or QR code



Please be aware that we are required to protect the system of anonymous voting but the online voting software will reveal to us the IP address of the account/device you use to vote. The online ballot will limit each IP address to one vote. This means that, even if there are two eligible voters in your household, you will be limited to one use of any IP address (that may mean one vote cast via your household's internet account).

If you prefer to vote on paper, please download the [ballot form](#). In order to meet the requirements of a secret ballot, please use a system of double enveloping for the return of your ballot paper(s):

1. Seal your ballot paper(s) in an unmarked envelope;
2. Seal this envelope in an outer envelope;
3. PRINT your name(s) on the outer envelope on the back (if there is more than one ballot paper inside, include all voters' names).

We must be able to identify which parents have voted and avoid multiple voting.

Please submit your online vote or return your ballot paper to the school by **9.00 a.m. on Thursday 3 February 2022**. You can post your ballot paper or hand deliver it to Student Reception from 8.30 a.m. on Monday 31 January 2022.

Parent Governor - Personal statements

<p>Candidate 1: Gary Moss</p>	<p>I am keen to become a parent governor because I want to support the school in delivering a great education for our children and because I have a buildings operations background that could be of use to the school. I also believe it is so important for parents to have a strong voice in how the school is run.</p> <p>Having been a parent governor at Buckden Primary Academy I am very familiar with the working of a governing body and our role as a 'critical friend' to the school leadership team. At Buckden I have contributed on health and safety matters, on building expansion, on Covid-19 measures, and as governor responsible for overseeing Pupil Premium spending on disadvantaged children.</p> <p>In my work as Director of Estates Operations at Cambridge University I am responsible for the safety, maintenance and operation of hundreds of buildings. I am also involved in building projects, personnel issues and management of large budgets. I believe these skills could be of use to the governing body and the school.</p> <p>Most importantly I care deeply about giving our children the best opportunities to succeed in life and I want to support the school in doing that.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this.</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Philip Kutar</p>	<p>I am a parent who strongly believes that our children's education must be a partnership, which draws on the energies and enthusiasm of both their teachers and parents.</p> <p>I believe that the role of parent governor on a school governing body plays a critical role in ensuring parents can contribute to the school's vision and strategy and oversee the maintenance of its educational and financial performance.</p> <p>Whilst I have no prior experience within an educational setting, I have over 25 years management experience working as a HR Business Partner within the both the public and private sectors.</p> <p>I do have experience of working in voluntary capacity in a number of settings. I have acted as a staff representative for the company pension scheme with one of my previous employers. In the past I have also been an active member of my local Parochial Church Council and chaired its Finance and General Purposes Committee for a number of years. Professionally I currently act as secretary to my company's staff consultative committee.</p> <p>I believe that I have ability to make a positive contribution to Hinchingsbrooke's governing body, supporting the school's Principle and staff and ensuring that parent's voices are heard.</p>
<p>Candidate 3: Lynne Milton</p>	<p>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 and 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Vacancies



Site Officer

Hinchingbrooke School is seeking to appoint a skilled, caring and enthusiastic site officer to join our team. Please click the link [Site Officer](#) for further information and details of how to apply.



Level 2 Teaching Assistant

Hinchingbrooke School is looking for a highly motivated and committed Teaching Assistant to join our thriving SEND department. Please click the link [Level 2 Teaching Assistant](#) for further information and details of how to apply. Closing date for applications: Friday 4 February



Level 1 Teaching Assistant

Hinchingbrooke School is looking for a highly motivated and committed Teaching Assistant to join our thriving SEND department. Please click the link [Level 1 Teaching Assistant](#) for further information and details of how to apply. Closing date for applications: Friday 4 February



Teacher of Alternative Provision – Science

We seek to appoint a well-qualified, professional [Teacher of Science](#) who is capable of teaching KS3 and KS4 to work within our Alternative Provision team teaching Science. This is a part-time (0.2FTE) position until 31st August 2022



ACES Academies Trust

Please visit the ACES website for current vacancies at schools within the Trust www.acesacademies.co.uk/vacancies

Please feel free to share our vacancies with family or friends who may be interested

This week's blog

This week's blog is about the statement that I hear at regular intervals that *'We all learn differently!'* Here is my own take on the subject: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=431>

Best wishes

Mark Patterson
Principal