



HBK Update, Friday 25 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's HBK update.

Response to Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis – message from Mrs Black, Associate Principal and Deputy Head of Sixth Form



On Wednesday this week, the humanitarian donations that our community made to support the people of Ukraine were collected from school. The driver was amazed by the generosity of our community and had to make three trips to their storage facility!

Today the packages are being transported to Peterborough and early next week a lorry will take them to Poland, where they will be distributed to those in need. Once again, a massive thank you to everyone who supported this initiative!

COVID-19 update

The number of positive cases among HBK students has risen over the past week: yesterday, we had 58 positive cases, which is up from the average of around 45 last week. There are 13 members of staff absent with COVID today, too, and staff absence inevitably has some impact on the smooth running of the school. The recent rise in positive cases of COVID reflects a national trend, which will hopefully lessen as a result of the break that the Easter holiday will create.

Music Festival Grand Final! Wow!



It was my privilege to attend the Grand Final on Wednesday night! We were treated to performances from the winners in the five classes from the huge number of performances that had taken place during the school day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The standard was very high, and the format of the event was competitive – we had three adjudicators (including our very own Mrs Nichols!) who assessed each piece and who, at the end, spoke about each one, as well as deciding – agonisingly - on the three winners. The adjudicators were thrilled by what they saw and heard, as were all of us who made up the audience! I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Music Festival happen and, especially, to Mrs Cooke and her Music Department colleagues!

Behaviour this week - message from Mrs Tandy

Following on from my recent ParentMail message about vaping, unfortunately a very small number of students have persisted with bringing and using vapes in school, for which suspensions have been put in place this week. Furthermore, we had an incident yesterday where a small group of students made a very poor choice around banned substances on their way to school, which again has resulted in suspensions being put in place for everybody involved. Behaviour of this kind is not welcome in our school, and please be assured that we are taking assertive action when students make what we view as very poor choices that compromises the safety of our community and/or breaches our school rules.

Of course, these incidents are representative of only a very small proportion of our students, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our many other students who continue to excel each and every day. Indeed, it has been wonderful acknowledging the efforts of so many students in our Celebration Assemblies this week as part of our 'Easter Eggstravaganza'.

HBK Parent/Carer Focus Group - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal



The first Parent / Carer Focus Group meeting took place last week and I am very grateful for all those who gave up their time to attend and contribute to some interesting discussions around behaviour. You can find the notes from this meeting here: [Parent Focus Group Discussion Notes](#)

Our next meeting will take place after Easter and will be exploring behaviour beyond the school gates: how we promote a sense of community and where the boundaries lie between home and school responsibility.

The Parent / Carer Focus Group is open to all so if you could not make the first meeting but are keen to come along to a future meeting, please do so. The invite to the second meeting will be sent to the group and promoted in a school ParentMail after Easter.

Easter School 2022 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

42% of Year 11 have now signed up for Easter School. Letters confirming places will be out imminently for both Year 11 and the Year 10 RPE sessions. Please let us know if your child is now unable to attend (sbennett@hbk.acesmat.uk) so we can reassign their place. A huge thanks to the many staff who have willingly given up part of their holiday to come in and ensure our students are as well prepared for the exams as they can be.

All students in Years 11 and 13 need to ensure that they get a break over the holiday, but it is also essential that they make a revision plan and use the time wisely. We are now just 8 weeks away from the start of the exam season!

Regular Retrieval Practice (5-a-day) – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Retrieving information is best achieved through regular practice and in the run up to the 2022 public examinations this has never been more true. In order to support your child through this process and encourage them, from Monday 28 March we will be sending through 5 questions a day you can ask your Year 11 child. These 5-a-day questions will cover English, Maths and all 3 Sciences, and - just as importantly – we will provide the answers for you! One suggestion is that you ask the questions at dinner time, or at another convenient time (maybe during drop-off or pick-up). This is, of course, meant as a supportive measure to check knowledge but also to offer you a structured opportunity to talk to your child about their schoolwork - do encourage them to talk to their teachers if there are areas they are still struggling with. Give it a go and let us know how it goes!

Head Students' Roll of Honour Board – message from Mr Pape, Assistant Principal



Mr Childs from London House Signs with the Principal, Mr Patterson

We are delighted to present our brand-new Head Student Roll of Honour board which is now proudly displayed in our Main Reception. We hope that this is a lasting memory of the hard work, high standards and kindness shown by our head students celebrating the legacy that they have left at Hinchingbrooke School. We really value the outstanding leadership that comes from our student body and our head students play a crucial role in this. The Roll of Honour board was produced in collaboration with John Childs from London House Signs and proud association with The Brampton Thrive Shop, RAF Wyton.

We look forward to next month when the interview process for the next head students are undertaken and hope that they can match the achievements of their predecessors.

Glastonbrooke Unplugged



We are proud to announce that Glastonbrooke Unplugged is running again this year! We are very pleased that your child has expressed an interest in taking part in Glastonbrooke Unplugged.

The event is taking place at Hinchingbrooke House in the Old Dining Room on Thursday 31 March 2022. The event will start at 19:00 and should finish no later than 21:00. Tickets will be £5 and available on the door or online:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pac/glastonbrooke-unplugged/e-lpljai>

Please sign and return the permission slip to Mrs Nichols hnichols@hbk.acesmat.uk

Staff vacancies



Exams Administrator Hinchingbrooke School is looking to recruit a new member to our Examinations Team. For further information and details of how to apply, please visit [ACES Academies Trust - Exams Administrator](#)

Closing date: **Monday 28 March 2022**



Level 1 and Level 2 Teaching Assistants Hinchingbrooke School is looking for highly motivated and committed Teaching Assistants to join our thriving SEND department at Hinchingbrooke School. Please visit [ACES Academies Trust – Teaching Assistants](#) Closing date: **Monday 28 March 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 any of our vacancies with friends or family who may be interested.

Rhythm Nation

As promised, some more photographs from last week's Rhythm Nation dance event.



This week's blog

This week's blog is about gratitude. If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthetaking.com/?p=625>

Very best wishes for a lovely weekend!

Mark Patterson
Principal