

## HBK Update, Friday 24 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your weekly round-up of HBK key messages!

### COVID-19 Infection rates - message from Mr Cooke, Vice Principal

Unfortunately, as expected, the number of students who are off school with Covid-19 increases each day. Therefore, it is important that we adhere tightly to the mitigating processes which we have in place. These are:

- **Twice-weekly testing at home** – more boxes of home test kits have been ordered so that there are sufficient supplies for the rest of the term. These will be distributed as soon as they arrive in school
- **Watch out for symptoms, and test** – we are finding that the current symptoms of Covid-19 being displayed in young people are often very similar to a common cold: runny nose, headaches and feeling tired. If your child does display such symptoms, please get them to take a Lateral Flow Test before sending them to school. It is absolutely fine to use the home test kits more frequently than twice a week as it helps to keep the Hinchingbrooke community safe. More boxes of home test kits can be collected from the Lower/Middle/Upper School offices
- **Hand hygiene** – we have asked that all students bring in a small bottle of sanitiser in their blazer pocket and use it regularly throughout the day. The teachers will also have bottles of sanitiser in the classroom which they may ask students to use
- **Ventilation** – we are keeping doors and windows open wherever feasible and requiring students to be outside at breaks and lunch as much as possible (except in very wet conditions) so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately and has a coat/umbrella on days when wet weather is forecast

Thank you for all your support in helping your child adhere to these mitigating processes.

### COVID-19 Vaccinations (Pfizer) on Wednesday 29 September - message from Mr Cooke, Vice Principal

Students aged 12 upwards will be vaccinated on Wednesday 29 **ONLY** if parental consent has been given via the NHS website (this website is the only way in which consent can be given). The deadline for giving consent is Tuesday 28 September at midday, so please be aware that you will not be able to do so after this time. Students who are receiving the vaccination should wear their PE polo top (along with the rest of their normal uniform) on Wednesday in order to give the nurses easy access to their upper arm. The full details regarding the vaccinations, and links to the parental consent forms, can be found [here](#)

### Sixth Form Information Event - message from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

The Year 12 Parents and Carers Information Evening on the 5 October will now be online. You will soon be able to make an online appointment with your child's tutor to discuss how they have settled into Sixth Form. We will also share information with you about how you can support your child through Sixth Form and life in Sixth Form.

### Teaching & Learning update - message from Mrs Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal

We conducted our first Self-Quizzing Book scrutiny yesterday and were very proud with the overall presentation of the work as well as the quantity of self-quizzes already completed by our students! Thank you for supporting us with this new initiative! Doing regular self-quizzes will definitely make a difference to the amount of knowledge students will acquire and remember by the end of the year, so it is a worthwhile investment.

**FAQs Part 2** (Part 1 was last Friday, 17 September):

1. **How long should students spend on Homework tasks each week?**

This is intended to be a guide only:

- 20-30 minutes per subject set in Year 7
- 30-45 minutes per subject set in Year 8
- 45-60 minutes per subjects set in Years 9 to 11

2. **What do we mean by 'Repeat' in Look/Say/Cover/Write/Check/Repeat?**

Students are given clear sections to learn from their Knowledge Organisers each week and are expected to self-quiz on the whole section (even if they already know some of the words/concepts). Once they've checked how many they got right, made corrections and filled any gaps, they need to **repeat** the self-quiz on the **same whole section** at least once more to help the new learning to stick - even if they got everything right the first time. In education, this is called overlearning. Overlearning is very helpful (think about how you learned the times tables as a child) because it provides a very solid base of knowledge on which more complex concepts can be built.

**GCSEPod** – message from Ms Newman, Associate Principal

You may be aware that last year we purchased a subscription to an e-learning platform called GCSEPod. We are re-launching this with Y9-11 students in form times over the next week. Please click [here](#) to read more about this so that you can help and support your child at home in using this fantastic resource to review their learning.

**Hunts Post Article** – Hinchingsbrooke School is awarded Quality in Careers Standard

This is a major achievement on the part of our school, and I would like to pay tribute to our fantastic team that deliver careers advice and guidance to our students! The article can be found [here](#)

**Thank you** to our students for making such a great start to school year 2021-22! And thank you to you, their parents and carers, for supporting them and the school.

**This week's blog**, if you would like to read it, is about 'Drilling'. You can find it here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=274>

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards,

**Mark Patterson**  
**Principal**