

HBK Update, Friday 21 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

HBK's Mission, Values and Key Focuses from September 2021

The beginning of a new school year is always a good time to talk about 'big picture' things such as the school's Mission, Values and Key Focuses, and I would like to share with you today our current thinking about what those should be from September 2021. These are in draft form, on one page – brevity is important. So far, they have been discussed by senior staff at the school and governors, and last week I shared them with all HBK staff and asked for any feedback they may wish to give. We will also be discussing them with student reps, soon. If you have any thoughts about the draft [Mission, Values and Key Focuses](#), please feel free to email them to my PA, Debbie Warner, on dw@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk.

Student Survey - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We conducted our student survey across all year groups earlier this half term. Despite last year's student survey results being very positive, we were delighted to see even better results across three quarters of the questions asked this year. The areas where we have seen the greatest improvement since last year are in the reporting and resolution of bullying and discriminatory events. Furthermore, the number of students experiencing bullying or discrimination has dropped since last year according to our students. There has been a significant improvement in the questions about Hinchbrooke encouraging better physical health and better emotional wellbeing and mental health. We have also seen an increase in the questions about encouraging students to be independent and take on responsibility. Finally, there has been a significant improvement in the question about providing students with information about their next steps. There were a number of other questions where the results were better than last year so overall we are very pleased with these results and grateful to the students for their positive feedback.

As part of our follow up work from the survey, year teams have met with individual students where any concerns were flagged. For example, if any student said they did not feel safe, there has been a follow-up discussion to unpack this. Furthermore, any student who said they had been bullied or experienced discrimination but not reported it has also been spoken to individually to encourage them to use the school processes to access support, ensure the matter is dealt with by the school, and to ensure that the issue is not ongoing. It is important that students can see our immediate response to the answers they have given on the survey and that they know how valued their voice is. Indeed, both their views and the views of parents mentioned last week will inform our future planning to ensure continued improvement.

Reading Survey reminder – message from Miss Waters, Teacher of English and Literacy coordinator

Dear Parents and Carers

At Hinchbrooke School we would like to become a 'Reading School'. As such, we would like to do as much as we possibly can to support your child's reading both in school and at home.

We are trying to ensure that students are reading every day and reading quality material which will stretch and challenge them. Why? All the research shows that students who read regularly have better life chances. They will get better exam results, they will get better jobs, have better mental health, better emotional literacy, and better relationships with their loved ones!

We would appreciate your feedback on your views on your child's reading habits and if there is anything else we could do as a school to support your child's reading. Then we can plan to build on this and ensure our students are as successful as they can be and literacy is not a barrier to learning."

Parental Reading Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ND0SzCxG9a>

My blog this week suggests that teachers should not be spending time focusing on so-called learning *styles*. If you would like to, you can read it here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=163>

Thank you to our students!

Our students continue to do a great job of just getting on with their learning despite the challenges we all face! We would like to especially recognise the efforts of those students who have been doing assessments that will count towards teacher assessed grades this summer. Well done to everyone!

Have a great weekend!

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal