

HBK Update, Friday 1 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

HBK Training Day on 15 October 2021

Just giving you advance notice that the school will be shut to students on Friday 15 October, as staff attend for training days but students don't. We reopen as normal on Monday 18 October.

The school calendar and term dates can be found in our [Parents, Carers & Students](#) section of the website.

Senior Leadership Team 2021-22 at HBK

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for this year consists of the Principal, three Vice-Principals, six Assistant Principals and three Associate Principals (these are temporary secondments to the Senior Leadership Team). Here are very brief details of our key areas of whole-school responsibility:

Mark Patterson, Principal: Mission, Values and Key Focuses; School Development Plan; Media/PR; Preparing for Ofsted inspection

Simon Cooke, Vice-Principal: Communications; Operations; Teaching and Learning

Anna Nightingale, Vice-Principal: Curriculum; Data, Tracking and Interventions; Pupil premium; Catch-Up; Literacy; Diversity

Kate Tandy, Vice-Principal: Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Behaviour; Staff well-being; Student, parent and staff voice; Attendance

David Pendlebury, Assistant Principal: Assessment and Reporting; School Management Information System; Head of STEM Faculty (Science, Maths, Business, Computing, Social Sciences)

Matthew Pinder, Assistant Principal: Timetable; Options; Staffing modelling and forecasting; Head of Creativity and Performance Faculty (PE, DT, Drama, Music, Food, Art, Dance, Film & Media Studies)

Priscilla Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal: Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Teaching; Homework; Marking and Feedback; Knowledge Organisers; Head of Global Faculty (English, History, Geography, Languages, RPE)

Vicky Rix, Assistant Principal: Director of Sixth Form

Chris Pape, Assistant Principal: HBK.COM; Year Teams and Tutoring; Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Behaviour; Student Leadership; House System

Tony Heath, Assistant Principal: Safeguarding and Child Protection; Admissions; Alternative Provision (education for students who are not in mainstream lessons at the school)

Charlotte Newman, Associate Principal: Teaching and Learning (also Head of RPE)

Carla Black, Associate Principal: Catch-up (also Deputy Head of Sixth Form)

Anneli Lombard, Associate Principal: Pupil Premium (also Head of Creativity)

Update on arrangements for the Summer 2022 qualification series

The Department for Education and Ofqual have just published the [outcomes](#) of the consultation on proposed summer 2022 adaptations. We will write to you again with a summary of these as soon as possible.

COVID-19 update

As of Thursday 30 September, we had a total of 118 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 amongst the students, and a very much smaller number of unconfirmed cases (confirmed means confirmed by PCR test; unconfirmed means positive lateral flow test but awaiting PCR test result). Whilst this number represents only 6% of the school's total number of students, it has been rising steadily since the start of term, so we have now reviewed the list of mitigations that we use in school to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and added made some additional measures. Some examples of these additional measures, that will

take effect as soon as possible, are moving assemblies online, moving some of our staff briefings online, and running large-scale events, such as our Year 6 Open Evening, online where possible. Our overriding aim in taking these additional measures is to have a positive effect on limiting the risk of transmission of the virus in school.

We would be grateful if all students could be reminded to bring their own hand sanitiser to school each day and use it regularly. We also encourage students to test themselves for COVID-19 twice each week using the home test kits; we are expecting new supplies of these soon and will distribute them as soon as we have them.

We have also made Public Health England aware of our COVID situation and we are awaiting their call so we can discuss with them the measures we are taking and they can advise us about any additional measures they think we should take. For example, for now we have stopped short of reinstating face coverings (for example, inside buildings), as this is a significant measure and one about which we feel that we need Public Health England advice before any decision.

We are hopeful, of course, that the vaccination programme that happened in school on Wednesday this week (with a catch-up session on 13 October for those that the School Age Immunisation Service nurses could not vaccinate on Wednesday) will, in time, have a positive effect on transmission of the virus.

Student Absence – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please call in and notify us, by 8.00am, on each and every day of absence. Contact details are:

Lower School, Years 7 & 8: Lower School Office

Direct Dial 01480 420522

Email: LowerSchool@hbk.acesmat.uk

Middle School, Years 9, 10 & 11: Middle School Office

Direct Dial 01480 420506

Email: MiddleSchool@hbk.acesmat.uk

Alternatively, the main school switchboard number can be used, following the instructions provided - 01480 375700

Please do not report your child's absence via direct email to teachers/form tutors/heads of year

If you are awaiting PCR results, you do not need to call daily but it would be greatly appreciated if you could email your child's SSO the results once they have come through so we can update our systems and work out isolation periods.

Medical/Dental/Hospital Appointments

Appointments should be taken out of school time, where possible. However, we understand that this can sometimes prove difficult or impossible, particularly with orthodontic treatment.

Students are expected to attend school prior to, and following their appointments, where the timing allows. A maximum of half a day is authorised on the registers, unless medical paperwork supports the need for an entire day. Please send in copies of appointment letters/cards, where you are notified of medical appointments. Parent and Carers should also make a note in their child's planner to show the relevant staff member and Reception for signing out purposes.

Leaving/Arriving during school hours

Students should not leave site without permission from a member of staff during school hours. Where they have been permitted to do so, they must sign in/out, as applicable, at Main Reception.

Students Taken Unwell at School

Where a student feels unwell during school hours, they must seek permission from the relevant staff member and attend the Medical Room to see the Nurse. Students should not be calling their parents directly to request being picked up from school. Such absence cannot be authorized on the school register.

This Week's Blog

This week's blog is about group work. It is aimed at teachers and others in education but, as always, I add it to my HBK Friday update, in case you would like to read it: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=276>

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson

Principal