



HBK Update, Friday 17 March 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your HBK weekly update!

Strikes update

Yesterday's National Education Union strike day was the last of the four publicised NEU strike days that have affected this school. At the moment, no further strikes have been announced by any teaching or school support staff union. If that situation changes, we will let you know immediately.

Email guidelines for parents and carers – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

At Hinchingbrooke we welcome communication from parents and carers to support home and school working together. Whilst the vast majority of communications from parents and carers are polite and constructive, there have been isolated instances where the tone, length and manner of communication have not been appropriate and so we just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our email guidelines:

- All communication should be courteous. In many cases the first person contacted may not have any control over the issue raised
- As HBK staff are always very busy (and many work part-time), so please be patient while awaiting a response. We aim to acknowledge all communication within 48 hours but it often takes longer to resolve more complicated matters
- We do not expect our staff to read and respond to emails outside of work hours and so emails sent in the evening or over weekends may not be read until the next working day
- Staff receive a high volume of emails both from within and outside of HBK, so please try to keep messages short and to the point

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

News from the Sixth Form – message from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

Last week we had the selection process for the new Hinchingbrooke Head Students. Seven Year 12 students put themselves forward to be part of the rigorous process to take on these significant roles within the school. It was a very strong field of applicants and we are delighted to announce that we have appointed **Maddie Jones** and **James Miles** as our new Head Students. We will shortly be appointing our Deputy Head Students and House Captains - watch this space for some more good news!

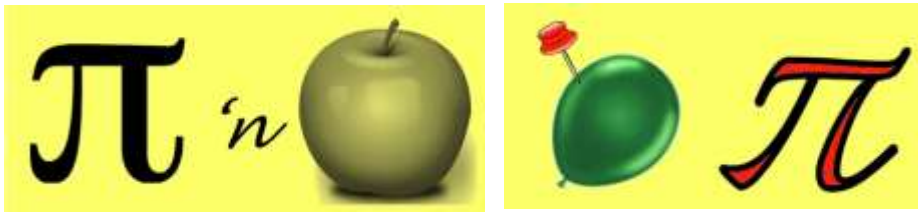
Year 12 are in the process of organising their work experience. Thank you to parents in advance for helping your child organise a placement this summer. Please contact sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk if you need any further advice or information.

Year 8 options forms – message from Mr Pinder, Vice-Principal

The deadline for returning completed option forms is Monday 20th March. Options forms should be returned to form tutors. If you need a new options form for any reason, please email options@hbk.acesmat.uk

Pi Day! – update from Mrs Gratton, Head of Maths

A huge well done to all our students and their form tutors for joining in with the Pi activities on Tuesday of this week (March 14th Pi Day)! Below are two of the Dingbats used for your amusement and a fun Pi song. Can you decipher these? (answers further down in this section)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HRkKznJoZA>

A massive thank you goes to our Chartwells catering team for joining in enthusiastically in their provision of pies on the day to all students! As you can see from the photos, we were spoiled with chicken and vegetable pie, cottage pie, cheesy vegetable pie, cookie pie and chocolate brownie pies.



Dingbat Answers: 1. Pineapple 2. Pop eye

World Book Day at HBK – update from Mrs Wright, English Teacher and HBK Literacy Lead

We had so much fun @ HBK while celebrating World Book Day. There was a fantastic buzz around the school on Thursday including:



- the English team turning up dressed up in their favourite book characters
- the MFL team reading the first page from Harry Potter in French and Spanish to their classes: how inspirational 😊
- the Maths' department taking on NASA equations
- RPE using reading to extend students' understanding of the curriculum

It is great to see staff working together to raise the profile of reading across the curriculum.

In pastoral time, students also got really involved with celebrating this special event and we were blessed to have Damian Hine and Danni Smith, 2 published authors, sharing their inspirational experiences in assemblies. In case you did not know and are interested in supporting them, here are some of the books they've published:



Competitions

And finally, all students entered competitions displaying their love for reading and passion for creative writing. Year 7 were tasked with entering a competition that is to be judged on ideas and creativity. Here are the final 8. Staff at HBK will have their opportunity to vote for their favourites. **Winners to be announced on Friday 31st March.**

Literacy Recognition Point Rewards

Top forms and recipients of the coveted GOLDEN BOOK
Congratulations to the recipients of the GOLDEN BOOK
for having the most Literacy Recognition Points last half
term: 7C3 – AGAIN!, 8si10, 9C2, 10M1

Top Readers and recipients of a £5 Virtual Book
Voucher, redeemable at the HBK LRC:

Year 7: Olly Mayes, Rosie Evans

Year 8: Charlie Hassell, Amelie Carreau

Year 9: Alastair Marsh, Sofia Sicheri

Year 10: Layla Smith, Lucas Conie



A new garden space for HBK Basecamp users – message from Mrs Smith and Mrs Stenning-White

We are developing a brand new garden adjacent to the Lower School building, for the Basecamp students to enjoy during the break and lunch times. As part of this project, we are launching a gardening club. We secured a grant to purchase outdoor furniture, wood for raised beds and also turf the area. We now need compost, seeds, pots or gardening tools. At this time of year, many of you will be heading into your garden sheds. If you have any unwanted items you could donate to our students, we would love to hear from you on the email address below or feel free to drop off any items to our school reception. Thank you so much for your support.

This week's Blog

This week's blog is very much for one for the educationalists, but in case you are interested, it is here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=933>

Best wishes

Mark Patterson

Principal