



HBK Update, Friday 17 June 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your Friday HBK update, on the hottest day of the year so far!

School is shut, Friday 24 June

Next Friday, 24 June, is a teacher training day at HBK. This means that students have a day off. School reopens as normal on Monday 27 June. The exception to this is those students who have a public examination - on the 24th this is the students sitting their A Level Biology or French examinations - these students should come to school for their examination, as they would for any other exam. There are no internal Year 12 examinations scheduled on Friday 24th.

Some parents have asked what happens on teacher training days. It varies from one training day to the next, of course, but the 24 June one will include training for teachers on a new Management Information System we are introducing next school year, called 'ARBOR' (this is an ACES Trust-wide initiative). Management Information Systems are internal to the school, so parents may see little difference 'on the ground'. That said, ARBOR records behaviour events differently from our current system with its 5s and 1s etc..., and so we are using this opportunity to make changes to our Behaviour Policy from September 2022 – more on this in due course from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal.

In addition to the ARBOR training, in the June training day, teachers typically review aspects of this year's work in their department and they make plans for the next year. There are other team and individual training events also happening on the day.

No water pistols, please! – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We have had to confiscate a small number of water pistols from students this week. These items are not allowed in school so please can you ensure that they remain at home. This message has also been given to students directly.

For parents of Year 11 pupils – message from the Sixth Form Team

If your child has received a conditional offer to join the HBK Sixth Form in September, please ask them to check their school email. We have sent a questionnaire to them this week, and their responses will help our organisation of the Induction Days of the 13th and 14th of July. Please ask them to fill in the questionnaire as soon as possible if they haven't already done so. Thank you very much.

Have your say - Parent / Carer Survey - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Please could you provide some feedback through the survey linked below, so that we can reflect on the progress we have made this year as a school. Parent and carer voice is important to us and this year we have already increased our engagement through setting up the Parent and Carer Focus Group to talk about matters arising from the Autumn survey. Discussions at these group meetings and the feedback you provide through the two annual surveys help to shape our plans moving forward, to ensure we continue to make improvements. There are optional comment boxes after each question so that you can include more detail in your feedback if you wish. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The survey will close on Friday 1 July 2022. <https://forms.office.com/r/FfbRkHxPVD>



Fill | Hinchingbrooke Parent / Carer Survey (2)

June 2022

[forms.office.com](https://forms.office.com/r/FfbRkHxPVD)

Summer Holiday Activities and Food – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal



Summer Holiday Scheme Places for free

Would your child like to attend a fully funded holiday scheme this summer where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are all included?

Children in receipt of income-related free school meals are eligible to attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 64 hours.

All refugee families welcome
Email HAF for further information

A unique booking code will be sent by email/text message to eligible parents on 13 June.

Further information:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf
(or scan the QR Code)
Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Department for Education
CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME
Cambridgeshire County Council

This Summer the local authority are offering a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme from 25 July to 31 August. Eligible pupils, in receipt of income-related FSM, can attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 64 hours for free. An eVoucher will be issued by The HAF Team on 13 June direct to parents: [HAF Parents webpage](#), [guide to redeeming vouchers](#). Please see the [parent letter](#) and poster with more information about this scheme.

Additional groups are also eligible for the summer HAF Programme as follows:

- Ukrainian and other refugee children
- Families just about financially managing who are not eligible for FSM
- Families where there are children who are FSM eligible and non-eligible

Apply early to secure your place for this summer!

National Group Reading Tests (NGRT) – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Every year we test our students' reading skills. This is so we can identify any students who need intervention to enable them to achieve their potential across the curriculum. This year the tests will take place in English lessons for students in Years 7-9 and in RPE lessons for Year 10. The tests will take place between 27th June and 8 July, and students will be told which lesson will be used for their test. There is no preparation required from students in advance of the reading test. The test itself is a 30-40 minute online one, for which students **will need to please bring in a pair of headphones** (ones which plug in – not air pods). Any students who miss the test will have an opportunity to take it at a later date.

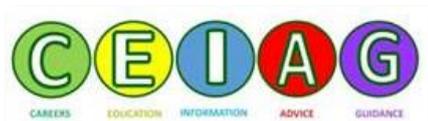
Year 11 and 13 Examinations - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

We are so nearly there! Students continue to conduct themselves admirably in their examinations and thanks to our joint efforts Year 11 uniform has been much improved this week! The Masterclasses continue, so please encourage your child to access these – they really are making a difference. Just last week the History masterclass actually went through a source which was on the paper the next day! Our staff are ready and eager to help students in these last few weeks.

Year 12 Exams - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The exams start on Wednesday 22nd June and run through to Friday 1st July. Students are not expected in school during this time, instead they should use the time when they are not in exams to revise.

Year 10 Work Experience (week 2) – message from Mr O'Shaughnessy, CEIAG Manager



We are delighted to report on a very successful Year 10 Work Experience fortnight! The students have done the Hinchingsbrooke community proud! The employer feedback has been excellent, with many comments on the good manners, politeness, work ethic and 'can do' attitude of our students. It has been fantastic to see the students out in the world of work again!

A significant number of students have been offered part-time jobs and summer work opportunities - some have even been asked to consider apprenticeship pathways in the future – Wow! That is fantastic feedback!

We have had stories of students making a real difference in school-based settings, in local manufacturing firms, in hospitality, aviation, software engineering, technology-based industries, construction, digital marketing, estates management, retail, working with babies, infants and animals. They have working alongside assembly teams building and pressure testing products, looking at engineering drawings, checking tolerances using Vernier's and a height gauge. It has been mentioned that there will be a chance to apply for an apprenticeship in the summer.

Students have been cleaning out an aviary at a local bird sanctuary, delivering leaflets, serving ice-creams, cakes and drinks in town. A local engineering business owner commented on the technical ability and computer coding skills of Ned and Adam, saying he would be delighted to employ either. The same employer was so impressed with Josie, they offered the opportunity to be involved in customer visits including one in Scotland requiring an overnight stay in the turret of a castle!

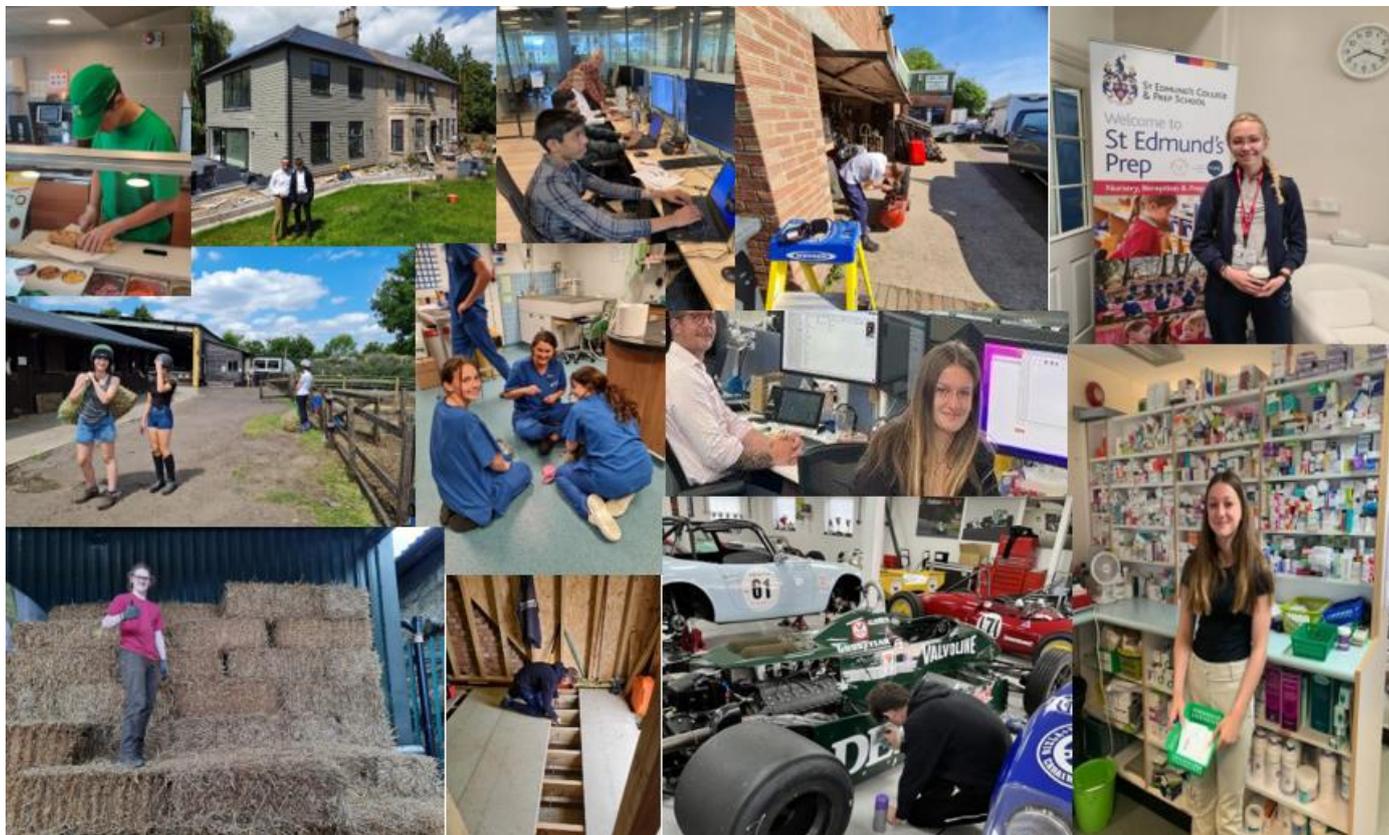
Students at a local nursery were so happy they wanted to stay there rather than come back to school! Staff there were very pleased with them, commenting positively on their work ethic.

Several students working with local construction-based businesses have been offered weekend and summer jobs, reflecting their hard work and ability to learn quickly. The same is true of the students working at local Garden Centers, where staff have commented on their flexibility and positive attitude - they were so willing to learn and they quickly learned how to advise customers.

Another placement which staff were very keen to visit was 'Silverstone Racetrack' where students have been helping several businesses prepare for upcoming races. Our own site team are so impressed with the work ethic, attitude and all-round desire to help of one student that they are trying to organize an apprenticeship for him!

The experience has been so beneficial to a very significant number of our students, and we are so proud - to hear a local employer saying 'the business got a lot from the experience too' really put the icing on the cake!

Please thank your child for their amazing efforts during this year's work experience!



Year 10 Maths and English Tutoring – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

A small number of students have been offered extra Maths and English tutoring, starting on Tuesday 21st June. Each student will have 2 hours each week for the next 4 weeks after school in Room 190. We will be offering more sessions over the summer break for a wider range of students and there will be numerous opportunities to access the tutoring in Year 11. If your child has been offered this opportunity, or it is offered in future, please encourage them to attend all sessions and make the most of them. Thank you.

Progress Reports – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

The final Progress Report of the year for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be published before the end of term. We will let you know as soon as the progress report for your child's year group is available to access, and how to access it.

Barracudas School Holiday Camp – message from Mr Fidler, HBK Leisure Lettings Manager

Please see details of Barracudas Holiday Camp which is running during the summer holidays.

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This week's blog

This week's blog is on Clarity, if you would like to read it: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=699>

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Mark Patterson
Principal