



HBK Update, Thursday 13 October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your weekly HBK update – a day early this week because of training day tomorrow.

Training Day TOMORROW (Friday 14 October) – school is shut to students

This week's HBK update arrives a day early because tomorrow is a staff training day and the school is shut to students. Staff will be working on a range of things, including the Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Teaching, and important updates that all staff need to know. School reopens as usual next Monday 17 October.

Open Evening today!

This evening, we welcome to the school Year 6 pupils and their families who are coming to see the school and speak to staff! Mr Milner (Head of Year 7 and Transition Coordinator), our Head Students Chloe Butler and Ben Lemmon, and I will address our visitors with a brief presentation about the school in the Performing Arts Centre. Every year, the school is over-subscribed (that is, we have more applications for places than we have places available) and I believe this is due, in no small part, to the quality of our staff and our students - your children. A number of current students have kindly agreed to help out at Open Evening; if your child is one of them, do please pass on my thanks to them!

Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Behaviour update – from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

- Last week we were able to send the first postcard home for 50 Recognition Points. This week we have sent a further 49 Postcards, meaning **50 students** have now earned **50 Recognition Points** each - what a wonderful achievement!



- In terms of negative logs, if a student receives three, then a further 'escalation' log will appear on the parent app. This means that either a Catch-Up (for lack of homework and/or unauthorised lateness) or ASD (after school detention for any other negative behaviour recorded) is needed, not that the incident has accidentally been recorded twice
- Similarly in terms of the parent app, 'positive incidents' are the same as 'Recognition Points'. If the total number of each is different, this is because a single positive incident could be the awarding of 2 Recognition Points if students **exceed** our high expectations in terms of hard work, high standards and kindness (the norm is 1 Recognition Point)

Arbor Parent Portal and App - message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

As of Wednesday, this week, we had 65% of parents who have logged in at least once to the Arbor Parent Portal/App - thank you very much to those parents for doing this! Currently in the Portal/App you can see your child's timetable, the Recognition Points which have been awarded and the log of any behaviour events recorded about your child. We will also issue Progress Reports within the App - Years 12 and 7 parents, for example, will be able to see the recently issued Attitude to Learning Progress Reports within the App.

We aim for the App to be the place to add payments for school meals and trips, and school communications such as this weekly HBK Update message that is currently sent out by ParentMail. For now, there are separate systems such as Parent Pay for school meals and trips and ParentMail for school communications – if all goes well, these will become part of the Arbor App but it will take time to ensure we get this correct. Please be assured that we are working on it!

If you are still to set up your account for the App, please follow the instructions that were sent to your email address from Arbor on 6th October. If you didn't receive this email, please contact - communications@hbk.acesmat.uk and your login details will be issued.

HBK Literacy developments – message from Mrs J Wright, Literacy Coordinator

SCAN ME



HBK Literacy Instagram account: Exciting news! We have just launched our **hbkliteracy** instagram page! Please follow us for news about exciting reads, reading initiatives and Literacy competitions!

Year 7 Laptops Letters – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

A number of students will have brought home letters regarding laptop loans. Please can you ensure that these are completed and given to the form tutor or Mrs Bennett so we can get the laptops out as soon as possible and so help students complete homework assignments.

The National Tutoring Programme in Year 11 - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Students in Year 11 will be offered the opportunity to access tutoring in English, Maths or Science after half term. This will involve 2 hours a week after school in one of these core subjects with an online tutor. In the first instance we will be targeting students to receive this extra support, but it will also be offered out to the whole year group during the course of the year. As such please have a discussion with your Year 11 child to see if this is something they would benefit from. Over 90% of students who took part last year achieved well in their summer exams, so it really has impact!

2023 Exams - What we know so far - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The exams are more than likely to be back to normal this summer for both Key Stage 4 and 5. We have already been informed by the DfE that there will be no reduced content like last year. This means any topic could be on an exam paper. The DfE are currently consulting on whether to issue GCSE students with a formulae sheet or revised equation sheets for Maths, Physics and Combined Science. Additionally, there is a public consultation about whether to remove the requirement to include unfamiliar vocabulary in GCSE Modern Foreign Language exams. The exam papers will be spaced out, as they were last summer, so if a student contracts COVID-19 or are otherwise ill they are likely to be able to sit at least one element of the qualification. Their overall grade will then be calculated using the marks they have achieved to scale up for the missed elements. As soon as we have more information, we will of course share this with you and the students.

Mock Examinations - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

A reminder that Year 11 written mocks take place between **14th and 25th November**. There will be some live exams for Food and Nutrition and Art mocks at the end of November and into early December. Please click here for the link to the mock timetable on our website:

Year 13 written mocks will take place between **12th and 21st December**. Timetable to follow.

Would you like to help with our Diversity work at HBK? – message from Ms Newman, Diversity Champion and Head of RPE

We are looking for parents, carers, family members and friends to get involved in aspects of our Diversity work at HBK. For students to build empathy and respect for all persons it is vital that they hear real-life examples of what it is like to have one or more of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, would you or someone you know in our Hinchingsbrooke community like to come into school to share some of your experiences? Are you confident in presenting? Do you feel you could offer a new insight/perspective? We are particularly looking for people who are passionate about any of the following areas: Age; Disability; Gender identity; Sexuality; Race; Religion (protected characteristics under the Equality Act). If you are interested, please get in touch with me to discuss: cnewman@hbk.acesmat.uk

Thanks so much for your willingness and enthusiasm for this exciting project!

October Free School Meals Voucher Scheme - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

For the October half term, the county are continuing to work with Wonde (E-voucher) as their voucher supplier for pupils who receive free school meals during team time. Eligibility remains the same as in previous rounds including support for post 16 bursary students. Each eligible pupil will receive a £15 voucher by the end of the day on 21st October. Please see the attached information ([Parent Letter \(CCC\)](#); [FAQ Parents – October Half Term Voucher Scheme CCC](#)).

Key Stage 3 and 4 Revision Guides - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Following on from our Success Evenings, if you are interested in ordering any revision guides for your child(ren) in Key Stage 3 or 4 to support their learning, please contact Mrs Sarah Bennett (sbennett@hbk.acesmat.uk).

Year 7 Progress Report - message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

We issued the first Year 7 Progress Report this week; this included the Attitude to Learning descriptors for all subjects. These were sent via Arbor to your registered email address but if you didn't receive this please contact - reports@hbk.acesmat.uk, stating the name of your child and we will re-issue your report. This Progress Report is also visible in the App and to find the report - click on the menu icon at the bottom left of your screen and then select 'Report Cards'.

Times Tables Rock Stars, Year 7 – message from Mrs Gratton and Mrs Corn, Maths Team



Huge congratulations to Year 7 in their first interhouse competition and obtaining an amazing 234,375 correct answers last week! Over 200 students participated, which is a brilliant start! Every tutor group got involved and scored points for their House. Here are some pictures of the winning tutor group, 7P3, with Mrs Jago.

Special congratulations go to the most valuable player (Felix A) and the second most valuable player (Victoria K).




Year 7 Mountfitchet Castle History Trip – message from Mr Ragdale, Teacher of History



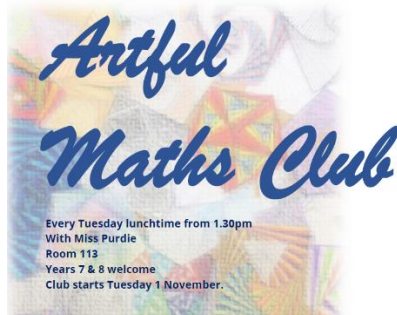
This week the History Department were thrilled to take 90 enthusiastic Year 7s on their first history trip to Mountfitchet Castle on Wednesday! The day was spent exploring the Motte and Bailey castle and considering what life was like for people in Medieval England, giving pupils a valuable insight into the period which they can build upon during their history lessons this year. We all had a very enjoyable day and learnt a lot about the Medieval world in the process! The Year 7 students on the trip represented the school perfectly, receiving a number of very positive comments from staff at the castle. I'd like to thank all Year 7s in attendance on the trip for their enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour; the staff members in attendance for their hard-work and support in delivering the trip and finally to all parents and carers for their support and encouragement during the planning stages of this trip.

New Clubs at HBK

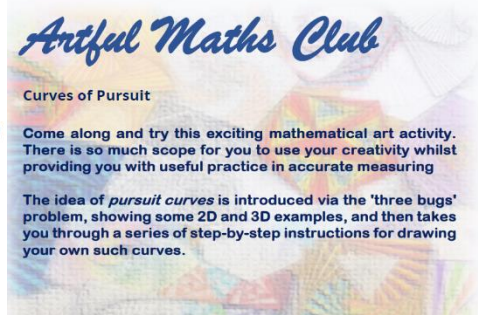
We have some new clubs happening at HBK....



Volleyball Club
with Mrs Rossi
Year 7
Every Thursday Lunchtime.
Meet in the Gym
All welcome! 😊



Artful Maths Club
Every Tuesday lunchtime from 1.30pm
With Miss Purdie
Room 113
Years 7 & 8 welcome
Club starts Tuesday 1 November.



Artful Maths Club
Curves of Pursuit
Come along and try this exciting mathematical art activity. There is so much scope for you to use your creativity whilst providing you with useful practice in accurate measuring
The idea of *pursuit curves* is introduced via the 'three bugs' problem, showing some 2D and 3D examples, and then takes you through a series of step-by-step instructions for drawing your own such curves.

Events in the PAC – Message from Steve Fidler, Lettings Manager at HBK Leisure



Christmas Soul Party
At the Hinchingsbrooke F.A.C.
* SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER * 7PM TIL LATE * TICKETS £10
LIVE SOUL BAND THE CONTACTS
VINYL DJ ROB GAIR
Corporate Group Xmas party rates available! Contact Steve at pac@hbk.acesmat.uk for more details
* HINCHINGBROOKE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE *
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, BRAMPTON RD, HUNTINGDON PE29 3BN | BOOK: TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/PAC/T-LNKK06

Support Staff Vacancies

HBK currently have a number of support staff vacancies. Please click on the links for more details:



[Medical Room Officer](#)
[Cover Supervisor](#)

For all vacancies in schools across the Trust, please visit the ACES Academies website:



ACES Academies Trust
www.acesacademies.co.uk/vacancies

This week's blog

This week's blog is about a perennially hot topic in education: 'Cultural Capital'. The blog covers what I think it is and why I think it matters. If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=735>

As always, these blogs represent my own views about things and don't necessarily represent school policy – we don't, for example, have a school policy on cultural capital! I write them because I enjoy thinking and writing about education-related topics and I know that at least some people enjoy reading them.

Best wishes

Mark Patterson

Principal