



## HBK Update, Friday 23 September 2022



Dear Hinchingbrooke Parents and Carers

Welcome to your weekly HBK update!

I understand that a number of parents of new HBK students have recently been added to our ParentMail: welcome!

### Early school finish for all students on 29 September 2022

The school will close at 1.20pm on 29 September, so that staff can prepare for the Sixth Form Open Evening that will start at 5pm on the day. Breaktime will be extended on the day, to run from 11am to 11.30am, to allow students to get a more substantial meal. **Students will be dismissed at 1.20pm** and the HBK school buses / taxis will be arranged to take them home at this time. As usual, if this is inconvenient for any HBK families, and you would prefer your child to remain at school until 3.15, please contact your child's Student Support Officer to say this, and we will make arrangements to supervise your child until 3.15. Do please note, however, that if your child usually gets the school bus at 3.15, you will need to make an alternative arrangement for this one day; we do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you.

### Year 7 Cashless Lunch Payment System - message from Mr Milner, Head of Year 7

Thank you to the parents of Year 7 students for your patience as we have been working on fixing a problem with the school cashless catering system. Our Year 7 students are now on the biometric system but, unfortunately, due to a technical error, any funds added to ParentPay are not being synchronised to the cashless system. So, we have added an overdraft facility to our students' accounts on the cashless system, that will enable them to purchase food and drink using their thumbprint in the biometric system. As soon as the Synchronisation facility is enabled, we will let you know. If you prefer, your child can continue to use cash until the cashless system issue is resolved.

In the meantime, please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that this causes.

### News from the Sixth Form - message from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

A reminder that next Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, is the Sixth Form Open Evening. We are looking forward to welcoming students and parents from year 11 to the school for this exciting event.

For parents of students in Year 12, 6<sup>th</sup> October is the year 12 '**Meet the Tutors**' event. Please look out for the information on how to book an appointment with your child's tutor to see how they have settled into year 12.

### Arbor Parent App – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

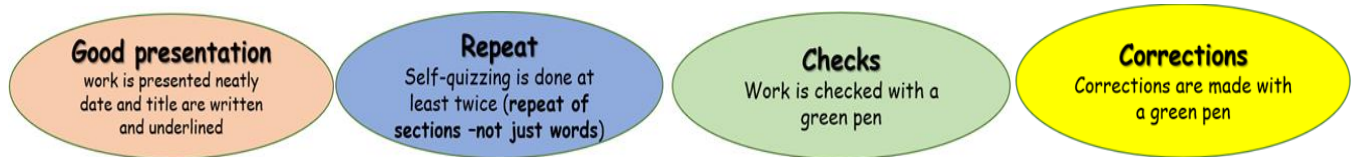
The move to the 'Arbor' MIS (Management information system) has gone very smoothly so far for our staff. This means we can accelerate our plans to launch the ARBOR parent app, which will provide parents with easy-to-access information about their child. Mrs Tandy and I are working on this at the moment, and we aim to launch the app for parents sometime in the next month. More information to follow soon!

### Teaching and Learning – message from Ms Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal

**Welcome** to another exciting year of teaching and learning at HBK! It was great to see our new Year 7 students, and pleasing too to see all of our other students back looking refreshed and ready for - hopefully - a more settled year this year! We have now given out a new set of **Knowledge Organiser Folders** and **Self-Quizzing Exercise Books** to all years 7-11 students. Previous sets must be kept safely at home, as teachers will be expecting students to go back to previous learning at various times during the year - this is the principle of **retrieval practice** and what

we believe, at Hinchingsbrooke, to be the number 1 strategy for effective retention of learning. Just a quick reminder of some **key expectations** to ensure a positive start to the year:

1. KO folders and SQ Books are part of the **daily essential equipment**, so students must bring them to school everyday
2. **Homework** is a compulsory part of our educational provision and therefore must be completed to a high standard and on time
3. For the Self-Quizzing Homework, here are the **expected standards**:



Your support with this will be **greatly appreciated!** If you want a reminder of why we teach the way we teach and have our HBK expectations, Mr Patterson offers insightful weekly blogs that you can find here: <https://learningisthething.com/>

### Helping students to make good careers decisions – message from the HBK Careers Team



As a partner school of 'Success at Schools' we would like to offer you access to their free parent/carer online careers advice resources. These will help with discussions around Uni choice, apprenticeship options and with careers in STEM-based pathways. Further details and sign up can be

found at: <https://mc.successatschool.org/guides22>

### £1000 Award for the HBK Film & Media Department! – message from Mr Lloyd, Head of Film and Media

The HBK Film and Media Department has been awarded a grant of £1000 to update our camera equipment from the award-winning local theatre company Shakespeare at The George (SaTG). Film Studies was first established at Hinchingsbrooke School in 2005, with Media Studies being introduced in 2017 after twelve years of excellent results on a very limited budget. Students at Hinchingsbrooke can now edit their film and video work on industry standard editing software and have had success at the Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Festival. Many have gone on to successful careers in film and television production. This award will be a huge help to continue the excellent work of the department.

### This week's blog

This week's blog is on 'Automaticity' – what it is and why it matters! If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=731>

**Thank you** to HBK parents for the support you are giving your child, so that they can learn and achieve well.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Best wishes

**Mark Patterson**  
**Principal**