

HBK Update, Friday 9 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the HBK Friday update!

COVID-19 update – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

At the time of writing, we are very pleased to say that we have had no new positive cases this week. At the start of the week we did carry out a track and trace for year 7s, but this did not end up being a positive case.

Please can you ensure that your child continues to complete the twice weekly Lateral Flow tests and report the result ([TestRegister.co.uk](https://www.testregister.co.uk)). If your child feels unwell or develops any symptoms, then please get them to carry out a Lateral Flow test before sending them to school; this can be in addition to the 2 weekly tests. In this way, we can get through to the summer holidays as safely as possible, with as little disruption to everyone's learning as possible. If your child uses up the test kits sooner than expected then more can be collected from the Lower/Middle School Office. Thank you for your support with this very important national testing programme.

Year 12 update - message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

We are also very pleased to report that the positive COVID-19 cases in Year 12 appear to have ceased, so the week of Remote Learning may have worked as a 'firebreak'. Therefore, we are looking forward to welcoming the year group back into school on Monday 12 July (except for the isolating students who are yet to complete their 10 days of self-isolation). **For everyone's protection, it is very important that Year 12 students complete a Lateral Flow test before coming into school on the morning of Monday 12 July.** Tests will be available in the Boot Room for any student that has run out of tests at home; they should go there immediately in the morning to complete a test and wait for the result before going anywhere else in school. We are grateful to our teachers of Year 12 who smoothly and swiftly switched to Remote Learning in order to ensure a continuity of education for our students.

Start of term in September 2021 - message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

This week the government announced that secondary schools must make plans to carry out '**On Site COVID-19 Testing**' of all students **before allowing them to start lessons in school** in September. As was the case in March, after the spring Lockdown, students will only be allowed to return to school/lessons after they have tested negative twice, with a minimum of 3 days in between the two tests. Clearly, this will impact on the start of term in September. Students will come into school, according to the testing schedule, for their first test and then leave the school site immediately, avoiding contact with other students as much as possible. Then their second test will be the following week. The broad plan is as follows:

- For **Years 7, 12 and 13**: first test on **Thursday 2 September** (a day earlier than originally intended) and second test on **Monday 6 September**
- For **Years 8, 9, 10 and 11**: first test on **Friday 3 September** and second test on **Tuesday 7 September**

We are sorry that this may well place additional pressure on parents/carers to make individual travel arrangements for those specific test days. **We will issue more precise timings for each tutor group before the end of term so it is clear when students should come into school.** We are very grateful, in advance, to the parents and grandparents in our community who have again volunteered to assist with the testing and make it possible to fit this testing schedule (requiring over 4,000 tests to be carried out) into just 4 days.

Information about summer 2021 examination grades – update from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Appeals Update Video

As promised, we have made a video to explain the appeals process this summer for those students who will be awarded Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). The video outlines the criteria for appeals and how the various aspects of the process work. We have also created an Appeals page on our website, which is intended to be a 'one-stop-shop' with videos, outlines of our processes and the paperwork to fill in when requesting an appeal. To make it easy to find, you can access it from the website's homepage www.hinchingbrookeschool.net

Here is the link to the **Appeals video**:

<https://youtu.be/1qsmjKBOBTE>

Just in case you have missed any of the previous updates, here are the links:

Results Day Update:

<https://youtu.be/iWid1yoTmVU>

How Grades will be awarded Update

<https://youtu.be/ZWbMwPx9GjI>

Mitigating Circumstances and the Body of Evidence Update

<https://youtu.be/YocxEqbtjww>

Use of Teams from September 2021 (and the end of using Doodle) – update from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

Teachers have significantly improved their skills with using Microsoft Teams as a result of the periods of remote education over the past year, especially the spring term lockdown when we used this platform to teach live lessons, to upload relevant course materials and to set assignments for the pupils to complete. Therefore, we have decided to use Teams as the platform for setting homework from September and we will no longer use Doodle. Homework will be set via the "Assignments" function in Teams, and parents will receive a weekly assignment summary email detailing all the assignments their child has been set. More details will follow in September, but I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on this move to Teams for homework setting.

Student wellbeing and mental health - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Please click [here](#) to view a presentation from the Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families that is packed with ideas about activities for boosting wellbeing and improving mental health. There are a number of activities that students could undertake over the summer holidays to help them unwind at the end of this very challenging school year.

Uniform guidelines change - message from Mrs Tandy

We have made a change to our uniform policy with regards to hair. Previously our policy stated that:
Hair should look natural - not be noticeably dyed (e.g. no unnatural colours used) or shaved and no hair extensions

With immediate effect, our policy now says:

Hair should look natural - not be dyed unnatural colours and no patterns or words shaved into the hair

Laptops – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Year 11 and Year 13 students have been returning the laptops they borrowed over the last year or so, and so these are available to reallocate to those students who really need them. Please can you let us know if **your child shares a device with another member of the family** and as such might have their **online learning compromised**. As long as the demand does not exceed the supply, we can reallocate one of these school laptops to your child.

If your child meets the criteria then please complete the form at the link below by **Wednesday 14th July, 5pm** so we can allocate the laptops before the summer holidays.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlhay_x-4GdhBILpwTj-tuhJUMzNXM1AzSDhBUTBISVIHSFczMTBXQUExVi4u

Non-uniform day on the last day of term - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

The last day of term is Thursday 22 July 2021 and students will be finishing school at 1.15pm. Students will have lessons 1 to 3 as normal (including break), followed by lunch at 12.20pm. The warning bell will ring at 1pm, after which students will have afternoon registration before being dismissed at 1.15pm. School buses have been altered to allow students to travel home at the revised time, however anyone using public transport will need to please check the timetables. If any student is unable to get home, please contact your child's Head of Year so that arrangements can be made to supervise them until 3.15pm.

We are making **Thursday 22 July a non-uniform day** and we are asking students for a **voluntary contribution of £1**. If students do not wish to donate, they may continue to wear their uniform as normal. Donations will be collected on the gates when students arrive at school. Please note that face coverings will still need to be worn and all COVID-19 safety measures will remain in place until the end of term. We are fundraising to extend our rewards programme so that we can recognise even more students next year for their amazing achievements and efforts.

RSPCA Young Photographer Awards



The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is free to enter for anyone aged 18 or younger. Competition closes on 16 August 2021.

[RSPCA Young Photographer Awards](#)

This week's blog is about teacher marking. If you would like to, you can read it here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=243>

Stay safe. Keep well. Have a lovely weekend and...

Come on England!

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson
Principal