

## HBK Update, Friday 14 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **COVID Safety Measures** - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Following the government announcement earlier this week about changes starting on Monday 17th May, we have produced the below video to show to students to explain Hinchingsbrooke's approach and plan for the next few weeks. In short, we will continue wearing face masks (unless exempt) for the remainder of this half term. Given we are only talking about two weeks, and in light of the statement of concern in the British Medical Journal this week about the government's recommendations, ***we feel it is better to adopt a more cautious and gradual approach to relaxing our safety measures.*** The video also talks through how some of our safety measures will be changing after half term, which includes ***only*** wearing masks when travelling round the site (this is within the new Government guidelines), no longer having the one-way system and no longer needing to wipe down desks at the start of lessons. Whilst there will be some changes, other measures will remain in place such as having year group zones for break and lunch, separate gates for the start and end of the day, and separate toilet facilities for break and lunch. We will also continue encouraging students to sanitise their hands regularly as this is generally good practice for staying healthy and avoiding different bugs. We will of course continue to review our safety measures and inform you of any further changes as the summer term goes on. In the meantime, I am very grateful for your support and would appreciate you discussing these safety measures with your child so that they understand why we have retained some of our safety mitigations for a little longer.

<https://youtu.be/RZcBsQ4YPTk>

### **The importance using the Lateral Flow Device test kits provided** – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

You will have seen on the news that new variants of COVID-19 are currently circulating in the local area, as well as other parts of the country. Therefore, **'Twice-Weekly-Testing'** continues to play a crucial role in our fight against coronavirus (COVID-19) and keeping the wider Hinchingsbrooke community safe. Students and staff who have agreed to take part in the testing programme and been given test kits, should continue to test themselves and report results to the school and to the NHS. We would **greatly appreciate parental support** in ensuring that your child carries out the Lateral Flow test process on Sunday night/Monday morning and Wednesday night/Thursday morning. Reporting the result not only supports contact tracing in the event of a positive case but assists the Government's understanding of community rates of infection. The government have produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#), featuring further guidance and common questions. This also includes details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

Thank you for your child's participation in this highly important testing programme twice a week.

## **Training Day on Friday 28 May**

Another reminder that school will be closed for students on Friday 28 May, as this day will be used by teachers as they work to finalise the teacher assessed grades that must be submitted to the examination boards in June.

**This week's blog** is about one of my favourite themes: talent versus practice. If you would like to read it, you can find it here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=152>

## **Thank you**

A final thank you to all of our students who continue to do the right thing, including working hard, in these challenging times. And a special mention to all of the older students who are doing assessments in class that will contribute towards their teacher assessed grades this summer. Thanks to them for all their efforts.

**We are Hinchingsbrooke.**

Kind regards

Mark Patterson  
Principal