

HBK Update, Friday 2 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the HBK Friday update!

COVID-19 and lateral flow tests – update from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

As you will have seen on the news, the national COVID infection rates amongst secondary school children have been climbing steadily over the last few weeks. Up until this week we had not experienced any of that in Hinchingsbrooke. Unfortunately, this week there have been a number of positive cases, almost all of which have been in Year 12. Every time a new case is reported the school goes through a rigorous process of identifying close contacts and then asking these students and staff (where relevant) to self-isolate for 10 days. The Delta variant is proving to be highly contagious so by the end of this week the vast majority of Year 12s were self-isolating. We liaised with Public Health England (PHE) at the start of this week to report on our processes and actions; then this morning we attended a multi-agency meeting involving PHE, the Department for Education and the Local Authority. At this meeting the school's handling of COVID cases in Year 12 was highly praised. **It was agreed in the meeting that Year 12s should continue with Remote Learning for all of next week, Monday 5 July to Friday 9 July. In this plan, Year 12 students will therefore not be on site next week but will return to school on Monday 12 July**, except for any individuals who still need to complete a 10 day isolation period. This was deemed by those in the meeting to be the best decision for the quality of education provided to the students, as well as acting as a 'firebreak' against further current transmission of the virus. Please contact a member of the 6th form team if you have any further queries or concerns about this situation. We will update you further about this next week.

In addition to the cases in Year 12, there has been only one other recent case that has resulted in us asking some students to self-isolate. The mitigations that we put in place are crucial in keeping these figures as low as possible, particularly when the national situation in schools is volatile. **Therefore, please could you ensure that your child conducts the Lateral Flow tests twice weekly and submits the result on the app.** If your child develops a cough, sore throat or other possible symptom, then please get them to take an additional Lateral Flow test in the morning before coming to school – we can provide additional test kits for any family that runs low as a result; just let us know.

Please encourage your child to sanitise and wash their hands regularly; students must all continue to have a sanitiser bottle in their pockets to help with this. Thank you for your support in doing everything possible to keep our community as safe as we can.

Results Days, August 2021 – update from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Please find a link below for an update on the Results days this summer, in a video format. This update outlines the details of the Results days for Key Stages 4 and 5, as well as giving you some information about how the grades are currently being checked by the exam boards. The next update will follow shortly, and will give you the key information about how the appeals process will work this summer – watch out for that next week!

Results Days Video link: <https://youtu.be/iWid1yoTmVU>

Sports Day 2021 Results!

Here are the overall results for Sports Day that was held on Wednesday this week! I would like to congratulate all of our students who took part in Sports Day – which is almost everyone at Hinchingsbrooke, as participation rates here are so high! Sports Day is about getting involved, supporting each other, having a smile on our faces and doing our best – and our great students did all of those things! I would like to thank all of the staff, and especially Mr Turnbull and the PE Team, for their work in making Sports Day happen! Well

done to everyone! And congratulations to Montagu House, 2021 overall winners! Look how close it was for second place!

HOUSE	Trophy Points	Overall points	Position
Cromwell	1000	1356	4
Montagu	1700	1536	1
Pepys	1400	1433	2
Vesey	1400	1433	2
Wylton	700	1327	5

End of Term Arrangements, Summer 2021 – 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/taxis have been altered to allow students to travel home at the revised time, however anyone using public transport will need to 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.

Uniform - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Whilst we have relaxed our rule about school blazers for the final half term, we are still keen to maintain high standards of uniform. Just as a reminder, school shirts are expected to be tucked in and school skirts should not be rolled up. We have seen a recent increase in the amount of jewellery being worn, which is why from next week this will be confiscated on the gate, as students arrive in school - students will then be able to collect anything that has been confiscated from either the Lower School or Middle School Office at the end of the school day. As a reminder, students in Years 7 and 8 may wear a watch and one small pair of plain stud earrings. Students in Years 9 and 10 may wear a watch, one small pair of plain stud earrings and one ring. No other facial piercings or jewellery are permitted. If a student needs to wear an item of jewellery for medical or religious reasons, please ensure they have a letter from home explaining this and ensure that it is counter-signed by their Head of Year. Many thanks for supporting the school in maintaining high standards of uniform.

Footpath Closure - message from Mrs Tandy

We have been informed by the A14 project that the footpath near the train station will be closed from Monday 5 July. If students normally use the underpass outside school and walk towards Huntingdon, we would advise that they use the crossing directly outside school and head into town on the other side of the main road. Please click [here](#) to view the diagram which illustrates where students will and will not be able to walk whilst the roadworks are ongoing.

Writing Opportunities – message from Miss Waters, Literacy Co-ordinator

Is your child a keen writer? Are you looking for more opportunities for them to hone their talents and get recognition for their craft? Below are links to several competitions and websites you may like to have a look at with your child to encourage them. If your child is successful with any of the competitions, please do share this with the school as we would love to celebrate their success!



[Best children's writing competitions | The School Reading List](#)

New writing competitions for children and teens. Chris Evans 500 words short story competition for children – opening in spring 2021.; The Lewis Carroll society is running a competition that includes categories for up to 16 and 16-20-year-olds who invite young writers to create a missing chapter of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland or Through the Looking-Glass.
schoolreadinglist.co.uk



[500 Words | Home](#)

500 Words is the world's largest story-writing competition for kids.
500words.me



<https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-youth-prize/>

[Sam King Windrush Awards](#)

This is Hinchingsbrooke, September 2021

Please click [here](#) to view the document which is intended to provide a quick overview of HBK's Mission, Values and Key Focuses from September 2021, in graphical form. I see real value in concise statements of intention, that show what the school is about and what we are focusing on. It remains a draft at this stage. I hope you find it useful.

This week's blog provides my rationale for the Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Teaching, that we are developing and implementing across the school. If you would like to read it, you can find it here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=242>

Have a lovely weekend. We are HBK.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal