

HBK Update, Friday 17 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your weekly HBK update!

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

Over the course of this week we have seen a slight rise in the number of students testing positive for COVID-19, which mirrors what is happening in the general population. This is the highest number of positive cases we have had at the school at any one time since the pandemic began and, indeed, it is just below the number of positive cases for the whole of last school year. We have discussed our situation with the Local Authority who have confirmed that they are seeing the same pattern across most of the secondary schools in the county. We will be continually reviewing the measures we have in place at school to help protect against the risk of transmission of the virus. Good ventilation and hand hygiene continue to be two of the most effective mitigating actions that we can take. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate students bringing into school their own small bottle of sanitiser to use regularly throughout the day. Staff on the school gates in the morning will be ensuring that all students sanitise their hands as they enter the school premises, in the same way that it was done during the summer term. As we continue to monitor the situation and review our measures, we will let you know of any changes as a result of this review.

COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds

The Department for Education wrote to us on Wednesday this week announcing the vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds. Following that letter, the NHS have written to us today confirming that the vaccination programme will happen at **Hinchingsbrooke on 29 September 2021**. Here is the link to the [NHS letter](#), in which you will find a further link to the consent form. A response is required from all parents of students aged 12 to 15.

Some of the key messages from the Government are:

- All children aged 12 to 15 years are being offered a first dose of vaccine as part of the school-based COVID-19 vaccination programme
- The vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff from the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS), following the usual approach to school-based immunisation. They, and not the school, will have legal responsibility for the vaccination programme in the school
- A large team of NHS staff – in excess of 45 people – will be in the school on 29 September to administer the vaccinations
- The vaccination is not mandatory **but the NHS letter says that a response is required from everyone**. More details are in the NHS letter. Please take some time to read it.

The following two resources have also been published: [COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people: guidance for parents](#)) and [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for children and young people](#).

We will write to you again, separately, about this programme next week, given its importance.

Teaching & learning – message from Ms Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal

It has been great seeing students using their Knowledge Organiser Books in lessons this week and many students have also started being set self-quizzing homework. What a fantastic start to the year - well done to our students! As with all new initiatives, we realise that it helps to clarify some of the practicalities, so we will be addressing some frequently-asked questions (FAQs) in the upcoming weeks, starting today:

1. Do students need to bring their Knowledge Organiser Book and Self-Quizzing Books to school every day?

Yes. Tutors will be checking for these in the mornings as part of their equipment checks, as these are now essential HBK equipment.

2. Is the self-quizzing book to be used for all homework that teachers set?

No. The self-quizzing book is ONLY for the self-quizzing homework that teachers set. Other homework (for example, a Maths worksheet) should be completed in the subject exercise books and/or on Teams, as indicated by the teacher.

This week's Blog

This week's blog is about the crucial part played by remembering in learning. Parents and carers should be aware that my blogs are mostly written for my colleagues and other educationalists, but I make them available to you in case you are interested:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=264>

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

We are Hinchinbrooke.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson
Principal