



HBK Update, Friday 24 February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's HBK Update.

Strike days 1 March, 15 March and 16 March 2023

Please read the separate letter about the strikes that will go out by ParentMail today (likely to arrive after this HBK update).

Year 8 Parents' Evening, Tuesday 14 March 2023 – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

We have decided to move the upcoming Year 8 Parents' Evening to **Tuesday 14th March**. The original date of Thursday 16th March clashes with a NEU strike day and we have therefore moved this to avoid the clash. The event will still be on-line with the usual timings (4:30-7:30pm) and details on when bookings can be made will be issued in the next week.

Arbor Student Portal – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

On Monday students will receive a message on their school email address which provides login details and password for the Arbor student portal. Students can use the portal to see their timetable, any detentions they have been set and the number of Recognition Points and Awards they have earned. Students will be shown a short PowerPoint about how to login and use the portal, which you can view here: [Student Portal Guidance](#)

Year 8 Options Process – message from Mr Pinder, Vice-Principal

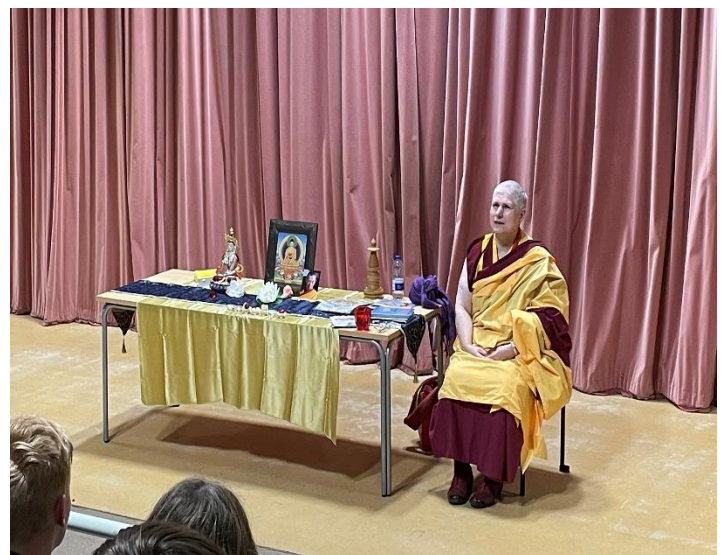
Students have started having taster lessons in their potential new subjects this week and this continues next week too. Options booklets and pathways will be issued to students in afternoon form time on Thursday 2nd March, please look out for these as they contain all of the information needed for students to make their choices. The deadline for forms to be handed in to tutors is Monday 20th March.

Year 10 RPE update – message from Ms Newman, Head of RPE and Diversity Champion



On Tuesday, Year 10 were treated to a visit from a Buddhist nun, Melaya Kelsang, from Peterborough Buddhist Centre. She talked them through many of the teachings and practices she follows (which included lots of links to the

GCSE specification!) and took them through a meditation and offering exercise. She also conducted a Q&A with students where we had some fantastic questions such as 'Do you fear death?' and 'How do you know if you have become enlightened?' It was a fantastic experience for students to hear from an authentic voice within the Buddhist religion as a part of their preparation for their GCSE exams in May.



Easter School Monday 3-Thursday 6 April 2023 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Year 10 have the opportunity to sign up for 4 hours of RPE revision (sets 1-3 on Monday and sets 4-6 on Tuesday)
To apply please click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/M3kSCM0xtt>

Year 11 have the opportunity to sign up to a range of subjects each for a 4 hour session (so one day for one subject)
To apply for places please click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/VPfmsTqwY>

The application forms close on Friday 3rd March at 5pm

Berlin History Trips 2023 – message from Mr Wheeley, Teacher of History and Assistant Head of Year 7

Over half-term the History Department took 26 of our Year 13 students on a trip to Berlin. We had a packed itinerary relating to the A-level curriculum, including visits to museums, memorials, the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, and the site of the famous 1933 book burning by the Nazis. In addition we took a coach trip to visit the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial Site, north of Berlin. This was a truly humbling place, giving both a sense of perspective and a greater understanding of the capacity for human cruelty and suffering. The Year 13 historians engaged fantastically with the sites visited, and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Here is one image from our visit:



The National Tutoring Programme – Round 3 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The Year 11 students chosen for round 3 will have received an email letting them know which subject they are to receive tutoring for, as will you as parents. This will occur every Tuesday and Thursday for the next 5 weeks starting on Tuesday 28 February.

National Reference Tests – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice Principal

48 students have been chosen by Ofqual (exam body) to sit a Maths or English test on Thursday 2 March. All the students who are involved are aware and parents of these students have also been contacted. Students will miss lessons 1 and 2 on this day to complete the exam and the survey. We thank them for being involved in this initiative.

HAF Programme – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#) is running over the Easter holidays. Eligible pupils, in receipt of income-related FSM, can attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 16 hours for no charge. Children will receive a daily meal and can take part in enriching experiences with their peers. **An EVoucher will be issued to eligible parents by email and text on 27 February.**

You can also apply to use at school if you are a:

- Family who is struggling financially but not eligible for FSM (Total places capped at 15% of FSM eligibility per school)
- Ukrainian and other refugee children
- Non-FSM eligible siblings living in the same family
- Family open to Social Care or Early Help Services

So please let us know (sbennett@hbk.acesmat.uk)

Please direct any questions to The Cambridgeshire HAF Team: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

We are pleased to invite students and parents in Year 13 to a talk being given by someone from the University of East Anglia about the process of applying for student finance. The talk will take place next Tuesday 28th February at 5pm. It will be in the Assembly Room of Hinchingsbrooke House. Please use the main Gatehouse to enter the school.

School Medical Room update

We have a medical room on site, and to help us manage how this is used, please discuss the following general guidance with your child. Thank you.

- Students are advised to bring a water bottle to school. There are water fountains around the school for students to refill during the day
- If a student becomes unwell whilst at school, they must seek permission from a member of staff to visit the Medical Room; the member of staff will give them a signed note to take to the Medical Room
- At the Medical Room, the Medical Room Officer will make an assessment of the student's condition and if the student is deemed unfit to remain in school, a phone call (to the parent or other key contact) will be made
- Students **must not** contact parents/carers themselves to arrange collection (this is important because we want to avoid a situation where a student is given an unauthorised absence mark because they have themselves arranged to be collected before the Medical Room Officer assessment has been made)
- If your child suffers from regular headaches/migraines or any other medical conditions that may require medication in school time, please contact the Medical Room Officer (k.goff@hbk.acesmat.uk / medicalroom@hbk.acesmat.uk); there is a form to be completed and sent back to School with the medication required for the student – this can be stored in the Medical Room and used when needed
- If a student is unwell before school, please do not send them to school

Vacancies at HBK

| World Book Day, 2 March 2023



We currently have a number of support staff vacancies at HBK.

For more details and an application pack, please visit:

www.acesacademies.co.uk/vacancies

[Arbor Administrator](#)

[Clubs & Progress Administrator](#)

[Sixth Form Administrator](#)

[Level 1 Teaching Assistant](#)

[Level 2 Teaching Assistant](#)

[Level 3 Teaching Assistant](#)

[Level 1 & 2 Teaching Assistants \(fixed term\)](#)

This week's blog

This week's blog reflects on a post I saw on Facebook recently, catchily entitled: 'How to fail at everything in life'. If you would like to read it, it's here: [How to fail at everything in life – Learning is the thing](#)

Have a good weekend!

Mark Patterson
Principal

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