

HBK Update, Friday 8 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Fire Drill, Wednesday 6 October

We held a fire drill on Wednesday just before 2pm, right at the end of lunchtime. We chose this time in order to have the least impact on lessons, but we were conscious that a fire drill taking place at the end of lunchtime might lead to more boisterous behaviour than, say, one planned to happen mid-lesson. In the event, the students were immaculately behaved on our school field, which is the designated line-up place for fire drills. They waited for a full ten minutes in impressive silence whilst we checked that everyone was present. We really were delighted with them! Please say well done to your child(ren).

More praise for our students

And whilst I am saying what great students we have, here is an email we received into our Communications email address, also on Wednesday afternoon. I have copied it exactly, only anonymising the name of the person who sent it. I am proud of how our students behaved, and a special thank you to 'James' – not sure who he is, as I type this! Hard Work, High Standards, and **Kindness** – that is Kindness in action. Well done!

Hello,

I thought you might like to know that I accidentally got on the wrong bus today, it was full of children from your school. All of them behaved immaculately and charmingly.

One individual, I think his name is James, insisted that he give up his seat for me.

Very impressed.

I hope that you will pass this on,

Many thanks

Mr A

COVID-19 update

The number of students absent for reasons related to COVID has seen a good reduction since last week. Today, we have 60 confirmed cases of COVID-19, compared with 108 confirmed cases last Friday. The number of staff who are absent for COVID-related reasons, on the other hand, is higher than it was at any point last school year, and higher too than it was in the first two weeks of this term. At the moment, we are coping, but it leads, inevitably, to a fair bit of lesson cover, where the usual class teacher is absent. We are very sorry for any disruption this causes to our students' learning.

The Local Authority wrote to all schools late on Wednesday evening, asking us to consider adding a number of COVID safety measures to what we already do. In response, Mr Cooke, our Vice-Principal, was in touch with them yesterday to talk through our specific circumstances at HBK. Senior staff met this morning to carefully consider the recommendations and we have decided to add some of their suggested measures to our list of current measures straight away, but to wait for a further conversation with the Local Authority on Monday before deciding on some of the others. Looking specifically at them:

- Face coverings in communal areas: we are waiting until Monday before deciding whether to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in 'communal areas', pending further discussion with the Local Authority. There is not, currently, a recommendation that face coverings should be worn in classrooms.
- Staff social distancing: we will be reminding our staff to socially distance from each other, as best they can, in school
- Visitors to school wearing a face covering inside buildings: we will be asking all visitors to school to wear a face covering in school buildings
- Moving events online, where possible: we had already been considering events as they approach in the calendar and we have moved almost all of them online. We are currently considering

whether we can go ahead with a face to face version of the Sixth Form Open Evening, with significant mitigations in place.

Already in place, but just a polite reminder that we encourage all of our students to do their twice-weekly home testing, and to bring a bottle of hand sanitiser into school – home testing and regular use of hand sanitisers are two of our key measures aimed at reducing the risk of transmission of the virus.

COVID-19 vaccination catch-up session in school for 12-15 year olds - message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

The Cambridgeshire Immunisation Team have told us they will be in school next **Wednesday, 13 October** for the **catch-up** session of Covid-19 vaccinations. This will be for:

- All students who did not receive the vaccine on Wednesday 29 September, but for whom parental consent has already been received, so those parents **do not** need to consent again
- Any other eligible students who now wish to receive the vaccination, but could not do so last time for some reason. For instance, students who are now 28 days clear of a positive Covid-19 test, or who have turned 12 in the last 2 weeks or who have simply now changed their minds. For these students, parents **must** give parental consent by Tuesday 12 October 12 noon, by clicking on this link:

[Form1 \(hct.nhs.uk\)](https://hct.nhs.uk) (the Unique school code is EE137475).

Please could those students who are due to receive the vaccination next Wednesday the 13th, **please wear a short sleeved school shirt or their PE polo shirt**; this greatly helped to speed up the process last time.

The Local Authority have also asked us to share this letter with parents and carers, re COVID-19:

[Parent Letter – Autumn 2021](#)

Future Ofsted Inspection of HBK - update

The school should have an Ofsted inspection this school year. We were due to be inspected in the summer term of 2020 but the pandemic hit in March 2020 and as a result, all Ofsted inspections nationally were paused; full inspections only restarted in September 2021 - last month. We don't know when the inspection will take place – Ofsted telephone the school the day before an inspection to announce that they are coming the next day – and, clearly, Ofsted will be significantly behind in their schedule of school inspections because of the national pause. For schools judged Good at their last inspection, such as HBK (we were last inspected in April 2016 and were judged Good in all categories at that time), the main purpose of the inspection is to check whether the school remains good. The inspection process lasts two school days, after which the Lead Ofsted Inspector will write a brief report for the school community outlining the judgements made.

In another ParentMail over the next few weeks, I will be pleased to share with you both our own judgement about the current performance of the school and our key priorities for improving the school this school year and beyond.

Training Day, 15 October

Just a final reminder that next Friday, 15 of October, is a training day; students do not attend school on that day.

Non-uniform day on 22 October – message from Mrs Jago, Senior Head of House

On 22 October there will be a non-uniform day for students in all years. 6th Form will have the option of fancy dress (Halloween themed) and years 7-11 will just be in their normal non-uniform clothes.

We would be grateful if all students could bring a £1 donation on the day monies will be collected at the gates on entry to the school in the morning. All monies raised will be split between the House charities: Cancer Research UK, Pancreatic Cancer UK, Mind, JDRF and Macmillan. Thank you very much for supporting this.

Remembrance Sunday 2021

Please see details of this year's event from [Huntingdon Town Council](#); we have been asked to share these with you.

This week's blog

This week's blog wades into the debate about whether the internet has made learning 'stuff' redundant, because *'it's all there at our fingertips when we need it'*. You can probably predict my answer. Here it is, if you would like to read it: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=290>

We are HBK.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal