



HBK Update, Friday 10 May 2024



It's been a lovely sunny week with so much being achieved inside and outside classrooms across the site. We are proud of our students continuing to work hard but, in the heat, remind them and you that our uniform standards remain high. This means students should be wearing blazers around site, shirt top buttons done up and school shoes on. Please contact your child's SSO if you have any issues with uniform with which we could help. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Good news! We have won a bid to replace the middle school roof and work began today. We will also be updating all of our alarm systems. This should all be completed before the academic year.

Wishing you a restful weekend – unless you are Year 11 or Year 13, in which case I wish you a productive weekend (but make sure you build in time to rest and recuperate too!)

Appointment of new HBK Principal – message from Andrew Goulding, CEO – ACES Academies Trust

I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed a new Principal for Hinchingbrooke School.

Mr Andy Hunter has had extensive experience in educational leadership in a variety of contexts, including in two Cambridgeshire Colleges, and he is currently an Executive Headteacher with responsibility for both Secondary and Primary schools in the Unity Trust.

Mr Hunter was an English teacher early in his career and was very impressive at interview across a wide range of challenges which won him the position. He is hoping to visit later in the summer term to begin to get to know everyone and will take up his post from 1st September 2024.

HBK Emergency Procedures (Lockdown) Practice – update from Mr Pinder, Vice-Principal

We successfully completed our lockdown practice on Tuesday this week. The lockdown bells operated as planned with all students and staff following the procedures as expected. We have a number of senior staff monitoring the practice and can confirm that everyone stayed in their rooms during the lockdown practice, closing doors, windows and blinds and curtains. After the lockdown had finished, students returned to their form rooms promptly (except for 2 stragglers who have been spoken to and parents have been contacted). Our systems to check attendance of students and staff worked well. We will continue to have two practice lockdown drills each year going forward.

May Half Term Voucher Scheme-Cambridgeshire County Council – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

We will be running a holiday voucher scheme for May Half Term. For each eligible pupil, we will be issuing a £15 supermarket voucher. We are continuing to work with Wonde (E-voucher) as our voucher supplier. Eligibility remains the same as in previous rounds including support for Post 16 bursary students. Every eligible pupil will receive their voucher by the end of the day on **Saturday 25th May**.

[Parent Letter \(CCC\)](#)

[FAQ Parents – May Half Term Voucher Scheme CCC](#)

We will be providing cover during the holidays for any voucher queries – parents need to email holidayvoucherscheme@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Free School Meals: If you think your child might be eligible for Free School Meals and you have not yet applied, please do so via the link: [Free school meals | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Updated email for the pastoral offices – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

When the Lower School Office (Years 7 and 8) moved up to the admin building we renamed the 'Lower School Office' to 'KS3 Pastoral Office' and the 'Middle School Office' (Years 9, 10 and 11) to 'KS4 Pastoral Office'. We have now updated our email addresses in line with this change as below:

lowerschool@hbk.acesmat.uk is now KS3Pastoral@hbk.acesmat.uk
middleschool@hbk.acesmat.uk is now KS4Pastoral@hbk.acesmat.uk

Sixth Form News – from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

Sadly, it's coming to the end of Sixth Form for our Year 13s. Last Thursday was our annual 'Handover Meal'. This event is a fabulous celebration and a chance to give our thanks to the outgoing Head Students and House Captains, and formally welcome the newly appointed leaders. This year we had live music from a group of Year 12 students and some lovely addresses of thanks from the House Leaders. See below for more detail.

Senior Student Handover 2024 – message from Mr Hall, Senior House Leader



On Thursday 2nd May we celebrated our annual handover, where the outgoing senior students relinquish their roles, and the incoming senior students take up the newly vacated positions. Hinchingsbrooke House played host to the event and looked stupendous in the golden sunshine of the setting May sun!



The students, all of whom arrived adorned in house colours, experienced a multitude of different activities from a quiz prepared by all the incoming senior students, live music from the ever amazing Scarlet Estate, as well as tasty food and plenty of photo opportunities within the grounds of the house.

The event went swimmingly, and all students enjoyed the occasion, with the sixth form team and house team able to say thank you to all the outgoing students for their hard work and dedication to their roles throughout the year. I would like to say thank you to all the students for all their help putting quiz rounds together, to the staff who gave up their evenings to help supervise the event, get photographs and tidy away after; but most of all, a massive thank you to Mrs Black and Mr Burton for their hard work organising such an awesome evening.



YOPEY Programme

This year around 15 students in Year 12 and 1 student in Year 13, have taken part in the YOPEY programme. This scheme pairs Sixth Form students with residents in local care homes with a weekly visit and the development of friendship. Tony Gearing MBE, the founder of YOPEY recently messaged the Sixth Form to say that our contributors are 'leading the way to making lives better for people living with dementia in Huntingdonshire.'

We are very proud of these students!

Exam advice for parent/carers of Year 13 students

Now that the exam season is upon us, we ask that you have a conversation with your child, to check that they know when and where all their exams are, and what equipment they need to bring with them. The exam timetable can be found here [Hinchingsbrooke School - Exam Timetables 2023/2024](#). Please note that we expect students to arrive 15 minutes before the start of each exam, wearing their lanyards and dressed according to the dress code.

If you feel your child may need some additional support in terms of managing nerves/anxiety around these exams, please do get in touch with us at sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk. If your child is so ill that they cannot sit their exam, please let us know by informing sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk and Mrs Grantham (Exams Manager) agrantham@hbk.acesmat.uk before 8am of the day of the exam.

Please note that Mrs Solano is going on maternity leave from the 24th May, as such Ms Fender will be taking over the role of Head of Year 13 (rfender@hbk.acesmat.uk). Any concerns about your child, please contact Ms Fender, or Mrs Rix (vrrix@hbk.acesmat.uk) and we will be in touch.

We wish all of our students the very best of luck!

Yom HaShoah - Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust – message from Miss Newman, Head of RPE

This week representatives from each form attended a short remembrance ceremony and lit a candle for specific individuals who lost their lives in the Holocaust. This is part of the Yellow Candle Project and enables students to focus on the plight of an individual victim. Victor Sacks, a member of the local community provides the yellow candles for us each year, enabling our students to learn about this event in a different way. The representatives then take this information back to their form group to share the plight of one victim. It is a powerful reminder of the suffering which took place.

