



HBK Update, Thursday 28 March 2024



After another busy term the Easter holidays are now upon us. There has been so much achieved in this short term! It is with great pleasure that we watched the various shows our students thrived in. It is with great pride we watch our students make the most of the opportunities that our amazing staff go out of their way to provide. As students continue to prepare for their examinations, others will be winging their way to fabulous destinations and others still will be coming in to attend Easter School and various clinics. Whatever you and your family are doing over the Easter break we wish you a restful and happy time; to have a chance to recharge the batteries ready for all the summer term has to offer.

From HBK Local Governing Committee

It was with great sadness that we received Mark Patterson's resignation. He has been the school Principal at Hinchingbrooke since January 2020 and has led our school with great skill, determination, and passion. Under Mark's guidance, our school has continued to flourish, supported by the adept and unwavering efforts of the senior leadership team, who tirelessly strive to secure the finest outcomes for our students on a daily basis.

The Local Governing Committee remains dedicated to upholding the high standards of the school, providing resolute support to the Principal, senior leadership team, teaching staff, and support staff. We are confident that the school will persist in its dedication to the objectives outlined in the School Development Plan, ensuring the continuation of our values - Hard work, High Standards and Kindness.

Whilst the appointment of a new Principal is the responsibility the ACES Trust, we as local Governors will be actively involved, alongside the Trustees, in the selection process for the new appointment, and in seeking to ensure a seamless transition for the forthcoming academic year.

Both the Trust and the Governing body are supporting the School's senior leadership team pending appointment of the new Principal who should be in post for the start of Autumn Term. Our School has an excellent leadership team and dedicated teaching and support staff. We are confident the school is in good hands during this transition period and will continue to go from strength to strength.

As we approach the Easter holiday, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your families. We eagerly anticipate the commencement of the Summer Term and the opportunities it brings for all students.

If you would like more information on Governance at HBK, please visit our website:

<https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Governance&pid=35>

Hinchingbrooke Approach to Behaviour (HAB) update - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

We have enjoyed celebrating students' achievements both in their House Assemblies and year group Celebration Assemblies over the last two weeks. Indeed there has been a lot to celebrate, including the fact that the proportion of positive logs is 3% higher (88%) than this time last year and the fact that students have now collectively exceeded 250,000 Recognition Points!

After Easter we are making some small changes to the behaviour system following feedback from students and consultation with Heads of Year and Heads of Department:

- We are going to reset the system part-way through each half-term as well as at the end of each half-term. This is because we decided that a student making three mistakes over the course of a 6-week half term did not warrant an after-school detention and so decided to reset the system more frequently.

- If a student does not complete their homework, this will now be followed up by their subject teacher/department rather than feeding into a centralised lunchtime detention. Mrs Lombard, Assistant Principal, will continue to follow up with individual students who regularly do not complete their homework to discuss how we can support them in getting their homework done. Thank you for encouraging your child to complete their homework fully and on time.
- If a student is removed during a lesson to the department safe room, they will no longer be put straight into an after-school detention. Instead they will have the opportunity to return to that subject base for a follow-up conversation at either break or lunchtime. The student will be told who they need to see and when at the end of the lesson where they have been removed. This allows a conversation to take place to discuss what went wrong and to decide on next steps ahead of the next lesson in that subject. If the student does not show up for this follow-up conversation (and there is not a good reason for them missing this, such as they had to go to the medical room poorly and were sent home, for example) then the after-school detention will still be issued.
- We will now follow-up some behaviour incidents with a lunchtime detention run by the Head of Year. This will reduce the number of students needing to attend an after-school detention and will allow for a more personalised conversation about what happened to take place.
- Our new Student Council will be conducting a review of our rewards system to see how we might expand this further.

Easter Free School Meals – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Over Easter Holidays, parents of students who are in receipt of free school meals or a Post-16 bursary will receive a £30 voucher on Saturday 30th March. They don't start to send until 9am and they may not arrive until the end of that day. Details of the scheme and support can be found below:

[Parent Letter \(CCC\)](#) | [FAQ Parents – Easter Holiday Voucher Scheme CCC](#)

Details on free school meals can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

You can check your eligibility for the voucher scheme here:

[http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply for Education Welfare Benefits](http://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply_for_Education_Welfare_Benefits)

In any correspondence with us, please ensure your email includes the **name of your child/children and their school /early years setting**. We are unable to search for vouchers without this information.

Contact: Winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Easter School - Tuesday 2 - Friday 5 April 2024 – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

Over half of the Year 11 cohort and many Year 10s have signed up for Easter School. If this is your child, then please remind them of the following:

Sessions start promptly at 9am and finish at 1pm

- Students DO NOT have to wear uniform
- Students should bring food and drink as there are no facilities open in school
- Students should bring pens/pencils/paper etc

Students and parents have received information about which sessions they have a place in. I have no doubt they will get a huge amount out of this focused revision provision!

Year 11 - The Final Push – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

Please see the Year 11 calendar [here](#) which outlines much the intervention which is currently taking place and that which is planned. A reminder about the amazing resource which is GCSEPod, which students should also be using on a regular basis. Students do not need a password, but as a reminder for you, there is information about this resource on our website [here](#)

Year 9 Exams – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

These will be classroom based and take place between 22 April and 3 May. Students will receive information from their class teachers about what to revise (essentially all they have learnt in Year 9 so far) and when their exams will take place in this 2 week window. If students have missed content from courses or have found some of the content difficult, they can of course visit GCSEPod which gives them lots of useful content and testing. We suggest students learn it (watch a pod on the relevant topics and make a revision resource), test it (using a check and challenge on GCSEPod) and then use it - which is essentially completing exam style questions. A reminder that reading notes is not revision. All revision should be interactive!

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

As the Easter break is upon us, we would like to thank you for your support with our Sixth Formers. The Year 13s have had the message that whilst it's important to have a rest this holiday, it is essential that they dedicate significant time to their revision for their final exams (and continue to do so after the break!). After Easter, we are running supervised revision sessions after school on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please encourage your child to sign up to some or all of these by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlvuf1Ehp1YBLpdDgfZkndpVUMVBKMOVNEWjhYTkVQTUU5NTc5S09GNkI3MC4u>

Staff news

We are sadly saying farewell to Mrs Sheehan (Head of Food & Catering) after 23 years; Mrs Moyes (Second in Geography) after 15 years; Mrs Magan (English Leader) who started with us in September 2020, Miss Collingwood (Teacher of Drama) and Mrs Smith (Subject Department Administrator) – we wish them well in their new ventures! After the Easter break, we welcome Mrs Bailey who will join the English Department as an English Leader and welcome back Miss Toone (Teacher of Drama).

GCSEPod Update – message from Mrs Gratton, Head of Maths



Congratulations to all students using GCSEPod!
We have now passed 100,000 Check and Challenge questions answered, as students quiz themselves on their learning!



I am looking forward to sharing the names of all the winners and their prizes after Easter.

As a school, our students are working hard and making good use of this free fantastic resource. The number of pods watched has risen significantly too. If your child hasn't logged on yet, the parent toolkit is available by following the link below. Once registered, students can use their school office365

login. <https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=GCSEPod&pid=1005>

Well done everyone and keep it up!

HBK Second hand Uniform - message from Mrs Lowe and Mrs Molyneux

DONATIONS

We will shortly be launching our second hand uniform marketplace. This is a new and exciting venture for the school as we move towards being more sustainable as a community. If you have any preloved uniform that you would like to donate to the school, it would be greatly received. Donated items can be brought into school by your child and dropped off with Mrs Molyneux in the Library or at our Main Reception. The launch is coming...



One of our parents has asked us to share information regarding fundraising for an indoor skate park in Huntingdon.

Let's Go Skate (LGS) is a local, not for profit skate school which has been helping people get into skateboarding since 2016. Skateboarding can be alluring thanks to its free-spirited nature, it's also ideal for children that don't always enjoy participating in traditional sports. It's meant LGS has been able to provide physical exercise for students that may otherwise have not been getting any.

LGS is also a community and has helped young people gather and socialise from different backgrounds. They enjoy road trips, skate meets, competitions and lots of other joint activities. This has boosted members' self-esteem, confidence, their physical wellbeing and created valued and lasting friendships.

The problem with skateboarding is that it is heavily weather dependent. All our local skateparks are open air and at the mercy of the elements. LGS is trying to change this by building an indoor skatepark right here on our doorstep, in Huntingdon. Not only would this provide year round skateboarding opportunities, but it would act as a central, social hub for them to provide the community with activities and opportunities to improve mental and physical wellbeing, as mentioned above. In order to be able to make this facility a reality, LGS has been fundraising towards a target of £20,000.

Last weekend, LGS members, of all ages, skated the length of the Guided Busway, from St Ives to Cambridge, in order to raise awareness and much-needed funds. The 12.5 mile skate was quite an effort on a cold and windy Sunday, but they did it, despite a few falls and bumps and bruises along the way!

The combined efforts of LGS members and their friends and families has so far raised £14,000. This was boosted by a pledge of £7,000 from Sport England, when the Crowdfunder reached £5,000. But this £7k will be removed if the fund does not reach its £20k target by the deadline of 8th April.

You can read more about LGS, its fundraising campaign and its activities in schools and the community here:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/huntingdonshire-indoor-skate-park>

<https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/24211531.huntingdonshire-indoor-skate-park-lets-go-skate-crowdfunder/>

We are HBK!