



## HBK Update, Friday 18 November 2022



Welcome to this week's HBK update!

### HBK School Development Plan update

Below is a brief summary of our School Development Plan (SDP) 2022-23 – obviously, it's still very early days in this school year, and much remains to be done; this is as it should be, as the Plan is intended to last for the full school year.

The School Development Plan is broken into 6 titled sections which are numbered below (section titles from the Plan are in bold). Within each section of the full Plan there are 'Actions' that summarise the main things we intend to do this year, 'Success Criteria' against which we can measure our progress, and a 'Progress' column where we add comments on how we are doing – this happens once per term, ahead of our full governing body meetings, and the details you can see below are the kinds of comment that are included in the 'Progress' column of the Plan.

1. **Quality of Teaching:** training days, department and heads of department meetings this term have all included a focus on continuing teacher professional development; quality assurance of teaching so far this year has focused on how well the Hinchingbrooke Approach to Teaching and the Hinchingbrooke Approach to Behaviour are embedding; we maintain our focus on the correct use of knowledge organisers by students; the Guided Reading programme has started this term in some year groups and we believe it is going well
2. **Leadership and management:** Senior Leadership Team meetings regularly feature collaborative work on the SDP; all subject leaders have drawn up plans for maximising Year 11 and Year 13 outcomes in their subject; staff workload and wellbeing remain areas of focus, with one of the Vice-Principals, Mrs Tandy, leading on it; we continue to emphasise high expectations, e.g. around students' behaviour, as part of our 'High Standards' core value
3. **Personal development, behaviour and attitudes:** work on improving students' behaviour is ongoing – use of the new ARBOR Management Information System is seeking to bring about greater consistency in how we deal with behaviour, as well as raising standards; we also continue to work on ensuring that staff, student and parent/carer voices play an important part in our self-evaluation and school improvement journey; towards the end of this term, there will be a review of behaviour, including how we are using ARBOR to track behaviour and promote great behaviour
4. **Outcomes for students:** we have set targets for the current Year 11 and Year 13 students and we use our regular data analysis to monitor students' progress in-year and target interventions for those students who are off-track; this priority links closely to the departments' focus on improving Year 11 and Year 13 results (mentioned in Point 2 above)
5. **Sixth Form provision:** ensuring high standards of behaviour and engagement, so that all Sixth Form students are good role models, is a key priority this year; we are reviewing our marketing of the Sixth Form to ensure applications for places in Year 12 remain healthy
6. **Partnership working:** we are keen to maintain an outward dimension to our work and this can be seen in our work this term with colleagues from the Bedford-based HEART Academies Trust this term.

### Have your say – Parent / Carer Survey – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

Please could you provide some feedback on the below survey so that we can reflect on your views about the progress we are making as a school. Parent and carer voice is important to us and this year we are keen to continue the Parent/Carer Focus Group meetings established last year. Discussions at these group meetings and the feedback you provide through our two annual surveys helps to shape our plans moving forward, to ensure we continue to

make improvements. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey – the more parents who complete it, the fuller picture we will have of what you think. The survey will close on Monday 5 December 2022.

<https://forms.office.com/r/yTWmxdmvUb>

### PSHCE at HBK update for all years – message from Ms Palmer, Head of PSHCE



Please see some information about the things that we are covering this term in PSHCE:

[Autumn Term 2 PSHCE Update](#)

### Request for donations from Sixth Form students for our 'Christmas hampers' initiative! - message from the Sixth Form Team

Our Sixth Form students are again collecting items to put in HBK Christmas Hampers; we traditionally send these out each year. The hamper boxes will be delivered by our students and staff to people in sheltered accommodation and to the homeless, locally. The hampers are always very well received and this is a good community initiative for Hinchingsbrooke Sixth Form - especially this year!

We are asking for your help with suitable donations – here are some examples of things you might donate: Chocolates/biscuits/crackers/mince pies/socks/sweets/nuts/tins of soup/tins of fruit/figs/dates/Christmas lights/candles/potpourri/gloves/small blankets/scarfs/gloves/deodorant/toothbrushes etc.

Please ask **your Sixth Form child** to bring any donations to room H58 in Hinchingsbrooke House before Friday 9 December 2022. Thank you very much for any help you are able to give!

### HBK Christmas Concert – message from Mr Cooke, Music Department

We are delighted to announce that our **Christmas Concert** will be held on **Wednesday 14 December at 7.00pm in the PAC!** Students involved in the concert (choirs, ensembles and soloists) will need to fill in a reply slip which can be found at the end of the [HBK Christmas Concert Letter](#). This should be returned to the Music base asap.

Also, a reminder that **instrumental and vocal lessons** are always available for students who wish to start learning a musical instrument. We have a fantastic team of instrumental and vocal teachers here at HBK. Please see their [Contact Details](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me ([wcooke@hbk.acesmat.uk](mailto:wcooke@hbk.acesmat.uk)) or Mrs Cooke ([kcooke@hbk.acesmat.uk](mailto:kcooke@hbk.acesmat.uk)).

### Whole school upcoming non-uniform days in aid of Charity\*

On **Thursday 8th December**, we will be having a non-uniform day to mark Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper Day'. If your child would like to wear non-uniform or a Christmas jumper on this day, we ask for a voluntary donation of £1, which will be collected in the morning on the school gates.

On **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**, we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise funds for the Sixth Form Charity, Teenage Cancer Trust. Again, if you would like your child to participate, please ask them to bring a voluntary donation of £1, which we will collect in the morning on the school gate.

\*These days are being promoted by the Sixth Form Charity Team.

## Thank you

Picking up on the School Development Plan Point 4 above, thank you, parents and carers, for all of the support you are giving your children to help them maximise their progress and attainment – especially the support for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, for whom the formal examinations will take place next summer. Clearly, it really matters.

## This week's blog

**This week's blog** tackles the subject of 'Intelligence' – just a small one, then! If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=761>

We are HBK.

**Mark Patterson**  
**Principal**