

Principal's Message - Week Ending 11 09 20

Dear Parents and Carers

If you would prefer to watch a video version of this message, you can view it here: <https://youtu.be/SkGX9Q82QqI>

Welcome back!

We were delighted to welcome back all of our pupils to school this week and to finally be able to welcome our new Year 7 pupils into the school! We know that school is the best place for our young people to be, for many reasons. No doubt we all hope that we can now get on with the business of schooling without interruption, whilst at the same time having plans for providing continuity of education, should there be another lockdown affecting either the whole school or one or more year group 'bubbles' (some more on Remote Learning below).

Great start to the year!

We are delighted with how the school year has started and I would like to commend our pupils for how well they have done! Staff have been very impressed with the responsibility they have demonstrated – 'Responsible' is one of our core values - in circumstances that are clearly far from normal. They are coping really well with many new routines, including new classroom routines, remaining in year group 'bubbles', following a one-way system around the school, and wearing a face covering when moving around; and they are doing all of this after having been off school for six months in many cases! It is a testament to how adaptable our young people are; please pass on our sincere thanks to them.

Expectations for behaviour

As you will know from reading the September Reopening Booklet we sent you, we are expecting more than ever before from our young people, in terms of their behaviour. This is, of course, partly because of the new procedures and routines we have had to introduce in response to COVID-19, but it is also because we believe that outstanding behaviour is the best foundation for great learning – the better everyone behaves, the better everyone learns. Improving behaviour is one of the school's five School Development Plan priorities this year.

COVID-19 reminder

Just a reminder that if your child displays one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 – these are a new, persistent cough, a high temperature and anosmia (change in or loss of sense of smell and/or taste) – they should stay at home and you should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. Here is the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

If your child presents a COVID-19 symptom while at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect them. The essence of the Government guidance is that anyone presenting symptoms should self-isolate and arrange to have a test.

Remote Learning provision update

Mr Cooke, the Vice-Principal, and some other senior staff have been reviewing the school's remote learning provision with a view to upgrading it, and Mr Cooke will write to parents and carers soon to update you. Remote learning provision will be important in the event of another lockdown, either partial (for example, a class or year group) or whole-school.

School Transport Survey

The Local Education Authority are keen to find out whether there have been any issues that pupils have faced travelling to and from school since the start of term this year. The following is the link to a Smart Survey they have set up and we would encourage parents to have their say about school transport: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/XPJOSD/> The survey is live now and will close at midnight on Sunday, 27 September.

Vacancy for a Hinchingbrooke Parent Governor

We now have a vacancy for a parent governor to join the school's Local Governing Body. Debbie Warner, my PA, who is also Clerk to the Governors, will be inviting parents soon to consider whether they would like to put themselves forward to be considered for this important role.

Thank you

A big thank you to parents and carers for helping us with starting the year; your support is very gratefully received.

Keep safe. We are HBK.

Mark Patterson

Principal