

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

HBK Update, Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This is the first of a series of ParentMails that we will send, aimed at providing you with all of the key information you and your children need. For now, there are very important things that remain unknown, such as what will happen with this year's summer exams and grades (GCSEs, A levels and BTECs). For all of those things, as soon as we have news, we will share it with you.

Mass testing

Last week, and yesterday, we were gearing up for mass testing at Hinchingsbrooke and 3000 'lateral flow' tests were delivered to the school yesterday morning, that we would have offered soon to all staff and students. Last night's announcement means that we will not be carrying out mass testing soon. However, we are likely to be offering tests to staff and to students who will be in school this half term (that is, the children of key workers and those students who are designated as 'vulnerable'), in line with the Government's guidance to schools. More on that to follow, but for now I would like to say a huge thank you to the 154 parents – Yes, 154! – who volunteered to help us with mass testing. That is an extraordinary thing, and we are very grateful. We do not now envisage needing parent volunteers this half term but if mass testing returns to the agenda – for example, after the February half term – we may ask again for volunteers.

BTEC Exams this week – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

This week and indeed during January there are a number of BTEC Level 3 examinations taking place. Despite the recent announcement about school closure these exams will still go ahead, so please ensure your son/daughter is aware and attends the exams as planned.

Vulnerable and Key Worker School - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The link to the form to apply for a place at the Hinchingsbrooke Vulnerable and Key Worker School is below. If you wish for your child to attend **please complete this by 5pm on Thursday 7th January 2021**. You will not be able to book a place if you do not complete the form, and the form will close at the time stated, meaning you will not be able to complete it after this time. If your child is already attending this provision **you do not have to apply again**. We anticipate a considerable need for this provision. With the majority of our staff delivering live lessons from next week, there will be a limited capacity. As such we would ask that you only apply if you are in need. Those who do not meet the criteria will not be given a place. Students will not have to wear uniform from Monday 11th,

but we are asking students to wear a face covering whilst in the classroom. As such we would ask students to bring more than one face covering so they can change it throughout the day.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlhay_x-4GdhBLpwTj-tuhJUOEFaNEVINEU5M1RMNEIBTUFIRU45SEs1QS4u

Summer Exams -- message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The Prime Minister mentioned that not all exams will go ahead this summer. As more information is released we will of course share this with you. In the meantime, and in the absence of knowing what the alternative will be, it is essential that Years 11 and 13 continue working hard.

Keep safe.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson

Principal