

6 January 2021

## HBK Update, Wednesday 6 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I very much hope you are well and keeping safe.

### **Breaking news about this summer's exams!**

We are aware that there has been an announcement this afternoon from Gavin Williamson, the Minister for Education about this summer's examinations. We will say more about this over the next day or two.

### **Update on Remote Learning** – from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

As we are now embarking on Remote Learning until February half-term, please be aware that there is a section on the school's website containing relevant information, such as: help videos on how to access Teams (the Microsoft app which we are using for delivering live lessons); guidelines for students and parents about remote learning, including expectations of students during live lessons – these have been updated recently to reflect our increased use of Teams; guidance on educational websites which departments use and how to get help with passwords. The relevant section on the school's website can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

The school's expectation is that teachers will be delivering live lessons to students in all year groups from Monday 11 January, and recording their attendance at these lessons. If students can attend their online lessons on time, that will be great. Some lessons may be 100% live, whilst others may just include a live element – that will depend, clearly, on what the teacher has planned. Teachers are doing their very best to get themselves to a point where live lessons work well and, as you can hopefully appreciate, some are currently further along the remote learning journey than others; we very much appreciate your understanding of the challenges involved.

### **Update on Doodle** – from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

Unfortunately, the Doodle app is currently offline. This is because Doodle are doing an update because the Flash player which is used for some of their resources is now defunct - they have had to come up with a new plug-in to allow these resources to work, and that has meant removing their app temporarily. Part of a message we have seen recently from Doodle includes this sentence: *'On Monday 11th January some big changes are coming to Doodle.'* For now, this issue is out of our hands as we have no control over the updates that Doodle do, and we were unaware that their app was going to be unavailable for this period. I appreciate parents' frustration and apologise for the inconvenience of this situation - the

timing of the app being unavailable, in particular, is far from ideal! You should still be able to see the work that has been set for your child by going to the Doodle website at [Doodlelearn.co.uk](https://doodlelearn.co.uk).

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

A reminder that if you are a key worker (definitions as outlined by the government) or your child is vulnerable (has an EHCP or a social worker) then you are entitled to sign up to the Hinchingsbrooke Vulnerable and Key Worker School from 11<sup>th</sup> January. To sign up you need to complete the form (link below) by 5pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. **We would ask that you only sign up if you need a place.** Students who access this facility will be in a computer room all day and be able to access their lessons through Doodle and Teams. If your child is in attendance this week, then you do not need to complete the form again. If you have requested a place by email or told you are on a waiting list, please complete this form to show your need.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlhay\\_x-4GdhBlpwTj-tuhJUOEFaNEVINEU5M1RMNEIBTUFIRU45SEs1QS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlhay_x-4GdhBlpwTj-tuhJUOEFaNEVINEU5M1RMNEIBTUFIRU45SEs1QS4u)

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson

Principal