

7 January 2021

HBK Update, Thursday 7 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your HBK update. This is currently a daily email.

Summer 2021 Exams and Grades

We now know that this summer's GCSE and A level results will be based on 'Teacher-assessed grades' but as yet we have no further details from Ofqual or the Government (the situation regarding BTEC grades is even less clear, currently, but that will no doubt become clear, too, in time). Partly, this is because the Government has promised that schools will be consulted before decisions are made, and the consultation has not yet opened. As soon as we have more, we will let you know.

Year 11 Parents' Evening – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

We have decided to postpone the upcoming Y11 Parents' Evening which was scheduled for 14th January. We are committed to running this event, but we feel it would be better to run it once we have more clarity from Ofqual regarding how GCSE grades will be awarded this summer.

Year 11 Mock exams

We will let parents and students know what decisions are made about these as soon as we have more information from the Government about what we will need to do to provide teacher assessed grades for the summer.

Wellbeing – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

We appreciate that lockdown may be having an impact on your child's well-being at present. If your child is worried or anxious, we have a range of resources to support them on our

website: <https://www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=2860&type=pdf>

[Health & Well-being Support - Hinchingsbrooke School](#)

NHS For your mind, for your body – support for all areas www.nhs.uk NSPCC National Society for the Protection of Children 0808 800 5000 (free) Samaritans Support for people in crisis 08457 909090 School Nursing Chat Service 07480 635443 Kooth Free safe and online support for young people Kooth.com CHUMS Mental health and emotional well-being to support children Chums.uk.com

In addition to this, please continue to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year to discuss any concerns. We want you and our students to know that you are not alone. Hinchingsbrooke is still open, albeit in a virtual sense, and we are here to continue to support our students, their families and each other. Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team will be making regular contact via lessons, Form Time, emails and phone calls.

Communication from Mr Goulding, CEO of our Trust

Please find attached a letter from Andrew Goulding, our CEO.

Keep safe. We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson

Principal

Attachments

 [ACES letter to parents January 2021.pdf](#)



ACES Academies Trust

Aspiration Creativity Excellence Success

7th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

As we find ourselves in quite exceptional circumstances as a country, where the provision of education is far removed from the norm, I thought it might be helpful to write to clarify the ACES approach in responding to the current lockdown situation.

I am not intending to repeat all the guidelines, which are many and ever changing, but rather to highlight some of the key points that will help all our schools to manage this situation as effectively as possible.

We are in a national lockdown and the most important message is to **stay at home**.

For the vast majority of people, adults and children alike, working at home will be the norm. In setting schoolwork, we aim to mirror the circumstances that would prevail in school as closely as possible. That said, given the huge variety of different circumstances within families, there will be differences, and our schools will not be able to cater for every single eventuality. The Headteachers will monitor the provision and we expect that live teaching will be a regular part of learning. Children should have regular access to their teachers and other support adults wherever possible and receive feedback on their work.

As we are providing remote learning, this is dependent on having access to technology and the schools have some limited resources available to support families for whom this is a problem. Technical issues, such as logging in and finding your way around, can be supported by the schools however occasionally, there are technical issues with software and resources that are outside the school's control. If schools encounter these problems, they will let you know.

For a small number of pupils, attendance at school in person, should be made possible. These are the children of critical workers and vulnerable children and young people. Schools are expected to make provision for this group, but in order to manage the situation effectively they will ask you to book a place in advance and they may ask you to prove that you meet the criteria to qualify. Even if you do qualify, we ask that you **do not send in your children unless absolutely necessary**. Many families will be able to make provision to supervise their children at home, even if they are key workers themselves, which will ease the pressure on what will continue to be a very difficult situation for some time to come.

The overriding concern is always the safety and well being of those in school. All schools have a live risk assessment, which has been approved by the Board of Trustees and this is updated as circumstances change. This means that if a school does not have access to sufficient staffing to maintain the safety requirements, they may not necessarily be able to accommodate all key worker children.

Schools are safe places, and it is essential that we keep them safe and continue to mitigate risks and manage resources effectively. The best way to do this is to have as few children as possible in attendance as this will diminish the mixing of households.

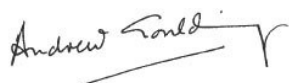
As long as the virus continues to spread so virulently and until it is under control, our schools are susceptible to losing staff who are having to isolate for a period of time. A reduction in staff available will inevitably impact on the teaching and learning that can take place, both in school and remotely. We ask that you understand this difficulty and trust that we are doing everything we can to continue to provide the best education with the resources available.

There are many additional burdens on schools and their leaders at this time, as they work out how best to respond to the changes around examinations and the test and trace requirements and I am impressed with how these are being met with determination and resilience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the parents and your children for the support you are showing at this difficult time, and especially to those who responded to the call for volunteers to help with testing. I have every confidence that together we will all play our part to protect ourselves, those around us, and the NHS.

As we all know that **the situation is constantly changing.**

Yours sincerely



Andrew Goulding

Chief Executive Officer



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