

## Principal's Message - Week Ending 04 12 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

If you prefer to watch a video version of this message, you can view it here <https://youtu.be/O4V6nB5PaJA>

### COVID-19 update

There was one new reported positive case of COVID-19 in school this week, in Year 10. Regrettably, it affected a large number of Year 10 students and a small number of staff who were identified as close contacts and have had to go home and self-isolate. Some parents have asked for clarification about the attendance at school of siblings of students who are sent home because they have been identified as close contacts of an affected person. The siblings of students who are self-isolating should still attend school because they themselves have not been identified as close contacts of the affected person. If their sibling subsequently has COVID-19 symptoms, is tested and is found to be positive, then in that instance the whole household would be required to self-isolate.

A significant number of teachers are now working to provide access to lessons for those students who are self-isolating at home and we know from their feedback that many students value this; we are keen to keep it going whilst the need remains and, indeed, we aim to keep growing this provision through more teachers getting involved.

It is really helpful that students are outside as much as possible at Break and Lunchtime and we avoid using our 'Wet Break' protocol that brings them inside unless we have to – for example, when it is raining fairly hard, particularly over the longer Lunchtime break. If it is 'spitting' or raining very lightly, we prefer students to be outside and it really helps in that scenario if they have coat/hat/gloves/umbrella. Please help us by encouraging your child to bring all of these to school, particularly the coat.

### Summer 2021 Examinations update – update from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

By now you might have seen the government's announcement about the package of measures to address the loss of learning and teaching this year, and the contingency plans for summer 2021 exams for KS4 and KS5 students. They include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with 2020
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels, to help them focus their revision
- exam aids – like formula sheets – provided in some exams to give students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to memorise

- contingency exams – held shortly after the main exam series – so students can sit a paper if they miss all their assessments in a subject because of illness or self-isolation.

The new measures complement the existing changes for next summer which include:

- reduced content in some subjects
- a delay to the start of exams and changes to the timetable.

There will also be adaptations to vocational qualifications such as BTECs. I'm sure you'll want to know the specific details relating to the measures announced today, so we'll be in touch once they have been released.

In the meantime may I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter all the best in the up and coming mock exams. For Year 13 these start on Friday 11th December and run until Thursday 17th December. For Year 11 these will start on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### **End of term arrangements**

Attached is a letter from Mrs Tandy regarding the arrangements for the end of term; school will finish at 1.15pm on Friday 18th December. The letter also contains information about non-uniform days at the end of term, along with details of a new crowd-funding page we have set up to raise money for outside seating. Please do support us with this if you can.

### **Road safety – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal**

With the nights drawing in and therefore visibility for other road users becoming poorer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and you of the need to wear appropriate clothing and follow safe cycling guidelines on the journeys to and from school.

Recently we have had several reports from members of the public of Hinchingsbrooke students cycling in ways which are either dangerous or intimidating to other pedestrians and road users. Earlier this week a member of the public was knocked over near Nun's Bridge by a group of students on bikes, which resulted in her breaking her wrist. Fortunately, some other HBK students stopped to help her; in doing that, they exemplified two of our values: responsibility and empathy.

As a school our expectations of students when cycling to and from Hinchingsbrooke are:

- That students use lights in darker conditions and wear appropriate clothing, including a cycle helmet
- That students use cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings where available
- That students are aware and considerate of pedestrians
- That students do not use their mobile phones whilst cycling
- That students cycle one person per bike and do not give 'lifts' to others
- That students do not ride their bikes in the pedestrian areas of Huntingdon, over the footbridge to Godmanchester or in designated bus lanes

- That students are courteous to members of the public if challenged about their conduct whilst cycling

Aside from the impact that poor behaviour outside of school has on the reputation of Hinchingsbrooke, we are first and foremost concerned for the safety of our students and appreciate your support in ensuring that all of our young people are able to travel safely to and from school each day.

**Reminder – Monday 7 December Staff Training Day**

This means that students should not attend school – they have the day off but, hopefully, they will do some revision of key learning! We look forward to seeing students back at school from next Tuesday 8 December

Have a lovely weekend.

Keep safe.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson

Principal

4 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**End of Term Arrangements Autumn 2020**

I am writing to let you know about the **timings for the last day of term and about a non-uniform event** we will be holding.

**The last day of term is Friday 18 December 2020 and students will be finishing school at 1.15pm.** Students will have lessons 1 to 3 as normal (including break), followed by lunch at 12.20pm. The warning bell will ring at 1pm, after which students will have afternoon registration before being dismissed at 1.15pm. School buses have been altered to allow students to travel home at the revised time, however anyone using public transport will need to check the timetables. If any student is unable to get home, please contact your child's Head of Year so that arrangements can be made to supervise them until 3.15pm.

We are making Thursday 17 December and Friday 18 December 2020 non-uniform days. We are asking students for a voluntary contribution of **£1**, which will cover both days. If students do not want to donate they may continue to wear their uniform as normal. Please note that face coverings will still need to be worn and all COVID safety measures will remain in place.

Normally we hold non-uniform days to raise money for good causes and indeed each of our Houses have continued their fantastic charity work this term. At this challenging time, we have taken the decision to focus our fundraising closer to home. One of the most challenging aspects of ensuring that the school is as safe as possible at this time has been the issue of providing facilities for students at break and lunch. Obviously it is far safer for students to spend as much time as possible outside. However, the worsening weather and simple lack of seating for such a large number has meant that many students are having to spend much of their non-lesson time simply standing around. We are investigating various means of funding the purchase of additional outside seating, however these processes are often long-winded and we are conscious that students need these facilities now rather than in a number of months' time. With this in mind, it is our intention to use the money raised from the non-uniform days to allow us to purchase and install additional seating as quickly as possible.

As well as collecting these donations, we have also set up a crowd-funding page with a view to hopefully securing additional funds from parents, carers and our wider community. Please do feel free to share the details of the crowd-funding page with anybody who may be in a position to make a contribution to help us continue to provide as safe an environment as possible for our students.

<https://www.rocketfund.org/hinchingsbrooke-school-outside-seating>

Thank you for supporting us in this initiative.

Yours sincerely



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