

HBK Update, Friday 15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this HBK Friday update!

COVID-19 lateral flow testing in school

Yesterday, we began our programme of testing staff and students who are in school this half term. The process around each test is taking between 5 and 10 minutes. I am very grateful to the staff who have volunteered to help with testing and also very impressed with the mature manner in which the students undertaking the tests have conducted themselves – well done to them! So far, so good; it is clearly early days.

You may have seen in the media a lot of discussion amongst the medical experts around the issue of mass testing using lateral flow tests and, in particular, the issue of serial testing – that is, testing people on a daily basis for 7 days as an alternative to them self-isolating at home. We are hoping for further clarity from the Government about serial testing over the next few days.

Remote learning update

Staff have been very impressed by how well the students are coping with their school-work so far during this lockdown! They report that attendance at online lessons is very high and students are behaving extraordinarily well. Given the huge challenges of the current circumstances, that is very impressive indeed and a real credit to our students. I would also like to thank my colleagues, who have significantly stepped up their live-teaching offer since the start of this lockdown - although live teaching is clearly only one way of providing learning for young people, it can really help with students' engagement; and engagement matters.

By the end of next week, we will have completed three weeks of lockdown lessons since the current lockdown began and we will be asking students, parents and staff for their feedback on how things are going, via a survey.

Appeal for devices – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

We have now given out over 100 devices to students to enable them to engage with online learning. There are still many families who do not have enough devices for their children and as a result some are having to use their phones, which is far from ideal. If you have any old laptops or tablets (iPads etc) which you would be able to donate to the school, we would gladly get these allocated to the families and students in need. Any device could be brought in and left at reception. If they turn out to be unusable we would recycle the devices responsibly. A huge thank you to those who are able to meet this request.

Message from the NHS about Type 1 Diabetes

The NHS has sent this message to all schools and asked us to pass it on to you:

Undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes in children requires urgent medical attention. If your child has ANY of the main symptoms of Type 1 diabetes please make an urgent GP appointment or contact the Out of Hours service. The main symptoms are known as the 4 Ts – Thirst, Toilet, Tiredness, Thinner. If you notice your child is thirsty or using the toilet more frequently, is always feeling tired, or has lost weight recently, seek immediate medical advice. NHS services are very well equipped to look after children safely if they are unwell. Please do not delay seeking medical advice because of Covid-19. There is more information available here: <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/diabetes-the-basics/diabetes-symptoms>

Keep safe. Have a lovely weekend.

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson

Principal