

HBK Update, Thursday 25 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I very much hope this email finds you and your families well.

GCSEPod, a new resource for our Year 9 to 11 students – message from Ms Newman, Associate Principal

In order to help students 'catch up' due to the pandemic as well as prepare students for assessments they may have after Easter, we have purchased access to an e-learning platform, GCSEPod. All students in Y9-11 will have been given access to the site this week during form time. The website/app has over 6000 'pods': revision videos designed to squeeze exactly the right knowledge needed for exam success into short 3-5 minute chunks. Pre-made exam specific playlists, available in the 'My Courses' area are neatly organised meaning your child can manage revision quickly and easily whilst prioritising their time. Please click on the link for a guide on [how to support your child using GCSEPod](#) at home.

COVID-19 Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

The DfE has confirmed that it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term and state that students should:

- Test twice a week at home once the 3 tests in school have been completed (all those who are able to do so)
- Report results online as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country.
- Continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays as well
- Test before returning to school for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back (ie Monday 12 April) to find and isolate any positive cases.

Families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#).

Therefore, all students who are taking part in the testing at home will be given more test kits this week to last them through the Easter break.

Reflecting on the pandemic, one year on – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

The government announced a minute's silence to be held on Tuesday this week to mark a year since the first UK lockdown. As this was announced quite late, we decided to hold the silence on Friday (tomorrow), thereby providing a bit more time to properly prepare staff and students. We want to ensure that the silence is purposeful, which is why we will spend some time discussing it in form time before going ahead on Friday morning.

Free School Meals over the Easter holidays - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Free School Meal vouchers will be provided centrally by Cambridgeshire County Council for the Easter break. Parents need do nothing except check email and/or text. The vouchers will be sent out on Friday 26th March 2021. Please click on the following links for further details:

[FAQs for Parents – Winter Support – Easter Vouchers](#)
[Winter Grant Scheme - Easter letter for Cambridgeshire schools](#)

We are Hinchingsbrooke.

Best wishes

Mark Patterson
Principal