



HBK Update, Friday 3 February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your HBK weekly update.

Industrial action by the National Education Union (NEU) on Wednesday 1 February 2023

We were only able to partially open on Wednesday of this week, as a result of the NEU decision to call their members out on strike. We are very sorry for any inconvenience that the partial closure caused for our students and their families, especially those students who had to work from home on the day. The decision to only open partially was made on the basis that the school has a large number of teachers who are members of the NEU.

Three further days of industrial action have already been announced by the NEU, on 1 March, 15 March and 16 March. We all hope, of course, that the situation will be resolved and that the strikes will not happen but if the strikes do go ahead on these dates, we will give you as much notice as possible of our arrangements for these days.

National Reference Tests, Year 11 – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

Each year 330 schools from across the country are randomly selected to hold 'National Reference Tests'. This year Hinchingbrooke has been selected to take part - we have no choice. This involves a small number of students (48) taking a one-hour National Reference Test in English language or maths, which helps the exam boards to set the boundaries for this summer's exams. The students involved are randomly selected by the external body responsible for running the tests, Ofqual. The tests will take place at Hinchingbrooke on 2nd March. Those students who have been chosen to sit the test by Ofqual will be given information before half term and if this is your child, you will also receive a letter.

Student Survey feedback and changes to the behaviour system – update from Mrs Tandy, Vice Principal

Students will be watching the below video in form time before the end of this half-term. This 10-minute video provides some feedback from the student survey and details some changes we are making to the behaviour system after half-term.

The key changes to the system are below and are more fully explained in the video:

- There will now be one after-school detention instead of separate ASDs and Catch-Ups
- Students will go to a venue based on which year group they are in - Years 7, 8 and 9 in the Food Court and Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the PAC
- We will no longer be using the reflection form but will continue to speak to students about why they are in detention
- We have increased the threshold for detention for some behaviours from 3 logs to 6 logs in a half term
- We will be launching a student portal

<https://youtu.be/s37RQ7iTA4A>

Progress Reports – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

The first Progress Report of the Year for Year 8 will be released next week. We will email this to all parents/carers via Arbor and also share the reports within the Arbor App.

Sixth Form News – update from Mrs Black, Deputy Head of Sixth Form/Head of Year 13 and Mr Burton, Sixth Form Student Support Officer

Year 13 now have less than 6 months until they move onto their next steps, and there are lots of opportunities for them to get involved with in the coming months to maximise their progress! Congratulations to those who are continuing to get offers from universities and apprenticeship courses and to some of our students who even have job offers lined up already! For others, there are still decisions to be made, and next week is National Apprenticeship

week, so we will be encouraging those who are undecided on what to do next to have a look at this as a potential pathway.

We have study skills sessions running every other Tuesday - next week's session is 'How to beat procrastination' and we ask that you encourage your Year 13 child to attend. Alongside these, we have tutoring programs, how to gain A*/A workshops, and positive mindset coaching going on. Individual departments are running a variety of revision sessions and it is essential that students attend these, if they are invited.

On **Tuesday 28th Feb at 5pm** we would like to invite you in for a talk on student finance. It will offer support for both students and their parents where students are planning on going to university next year. More details to follow.

In assembly last week we spoke to students about two key things: the importance of taking opportunities and communicating with us. The next few months are likely to bring their challenges, but we will do our very best to ensure our students are fully prepared for their exams and future plans. Hopefully, they know where they can come to for support and nothing is too small or trivial to chat to the Sixth Form team about. The coming months are all about one giant team effort between the students, the Sixth Form team, the teachers and of course, YOU, as parents too. Please do communicate with us if you have any queries or concerns.

Lost Property @ HBK – message from Mrs Lowe, Pastoral Administration Officer



Following on from our message launching the new lost property system in school back in December 2022, please can we remind you that you can see update lists on the school website [here](#)

If you would like to email please use lostproperty@hbk.acesmat.uk

Please can we ask that items brought into school are clearly named as this makes it a lot easier to reunite.

HBK Lost – HBK Found – HBK Reunite

Matilda The Musical JR at Hinchingsbrooke School - February 2023 – message from The Hinchingsbrooke School Production Team

We are delighted to announce that tickets for our first School Production since COVID are now on sale! For a ticket to see our version of Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical, JR, please use this link: [MATILDA 2023 TICKETS](#)

The link will take you straight to the Ticket Source website where you will be able to purchase your tickets online. Proceeds from ticket sales will go towards funding future productions here at our amazing professional theatre, our very own Performing Arts Centre! The Matilda Opening night is Tuesday 7th February, with the production running for three nights, finishing on Thursday 9th February.

This week's blog

This week's blog is about teacher workload. If you would like to read it, it's here: [Teacher workload – Learning is the thing](#)

Have a great weekend. We are HBK.

Mark Patterson
Principal

