



HBK Update, Friday 2 February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your usual Friday HBK round-up!

Recent safeguarding incident in the vicinity of the school

Police this morning informed us of reports of a stranger exposing himself in the vicinity of the school – when things like this happen, the Police always let us know. Ensuring the safety and security of our students is our utmost priority and we urge all students, parents, and carers to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or unusual activity observed in the vicinity of the school immediately to the Police and to us.

In light of this report, we will review our own security measures with a view to enhancing them, and your cooperation in remaining vigilant is crucial in helping us keep everyone safe. We encourage open communication, and if you or your child have any concerns or information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Important information on Measles/MMR

Cambridgeshire County Council has asked us to share a letter with Parents and Carers. You can view it [here](#).

HBK Gold Ribbon Winner! - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We celebrated this morning the first student to achieve their Gold ribbon for earning over 300 Recognition Points. Whereas our first Gold winner last year was in Year 11, this year it was Finley in Year 7 who reached this amazing milestone. We are all very proud of this achievement and indeed the hard work, high standards and kindness being shown by so many of our students this term. You can see some lovely photos here!

Autumn Term Survey results - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

I am pleased to share with you the results from the Autumn surveys. This and previous surveys can be found on our website here: [Hinchingbrooke School - HBK Surveys](#)

The student survey results were similar to the Summer 2023 survey but some questions including having an adult to talk to in school were more positive. Students were also more positive about behaviour in school, although a small number said that they feel that the school is too strict. Positive responses were a little lower for the questions on physical and mental health so we need to consider how we can promote both of these important areas more widely with students. In the list of best things about Hinchingbrooke the staff and teaching were rated the highest. As with previous years there have been valuable individual follow up conversations with students where concerns were flagged through their answers.



The parent and carer survey results were more positive in almost all categories including recommending the school. Furthermore 81% thought that Hinchingsbrooke is a good school, which is higher than both of last year's surveys. One area to consider from this survey is extra-curricular opportunities where positive responses were a little lower. We know that there are a range of opportunities on offer so need to consider how to promote these more widely.

Overall, there are many positives to take from both surveys and it is good to see the many strengths that Hinchingsbrooke has to offer being recognised.

Teaching and Learning update – message from Ms Lombard, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

Over the next two weeks subject teachers across the school will be asking students of all year groups to participate in 'Room with a View'.

As a school we want to listen to all the many stakeholders we have and take their views and ideas into consideration - this is why we reach out using parental surveys, staff surveys and through other means. Teaching and Learning is at the heart of what we do and our students are a key part of this.

Room with a View is their opportunity for them to tell us about their learning experiences in all their subjects, and this gives us information to plan from and act on. Please can I encourage you to talk to your children about the value of their opinion, and to ask them to approach the task sensibly and honestly so we can plan forward from the best-quality feedback. Thank you for your support.

News from the Sixth Form – from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

On the 24 January, in the House, we had our biggest ever Sixth Form University and Apprenticeship Fair! This year we had over 22 universities and 20 apprenticeship exhibitors who were available to speak with our year 12s and 13s about their post-18 options. Upstairs we had: talks on Student Finance from the University of East Anglia; Chloe Butler, our former Head Student spoke about the merits of taking a gap year before studying; and Mr O'Shaughnessy spoke to students about pathways into the work place after Sixth Form. There was a real buzz around Hinchingsbrooke House, and we are proud of how well our students presented to our visitors! Here are some lovely photos from the event!



UCAS applications update - We are delighted to say that nearly 70% of our Year 13s have submitted a UCAS application this year! Thanks to all parents for their support in helping their child with this process.

Targeted Survey – update from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

We recently asked a number of parents to complete a survey on 'How to support your child at HBK' – we are very grateful to those parents, and we are currently working through their responses. All names were put into a randomiser and the following 3 students won a family ticket to Cineworld cinema! They are: Bailey P Year 7, Alfie P Year 9, Elle-Mai T Year 11. Congratulations to you and enjoy your family cinema time!

This week's blog

This week's blog emphasises the importance of consistency in improving everything! If you would like to read it, it's here: [Consistency: the key to improving everything – Learning is the thing](#)

Best wishes

Mark Patterson
Principal