



HBK Update, Friday 26 January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this week's HBK update!

HBK Emergency Procedures update – message from Mr Pinder, Vice-Principal

We completed our lockdown practice on Thursday this week. Unfortunately, the lockdown bell did not operate as planned. I have been informed that this was due to a power cut on Wednesday which had damaged the interface between the control panel and the bells. An engineer is scheduled to attend today to fix this, and prevent it from happening in the future. Without the bells, staff were still made aware of the lockdown

practice using our emergency computer messaging system - this allowed us to test the rest of our procedures. During the lockdown itself, everyone remained calm and followed the correct procedures. After the lockdown had finished, students returned to their form rooms promptly, and our systems for checking their attendance worked well. We have some learning points from the practice, and we intend to have a further practice in the next half-term once the lockdown bell has been fixed and tested.

Report of suspicious behaviour in the vicinity of the school - message from Mr Oliver, ACES Trust Estates Manager

We have received reports of a person in the vicinity of the school exhibiting suspicious behaviour; this person is also wanted in connection with recent bike thefts from the school. We have already reported this matter to the Police and our description of the person is: Tall, slim, white, age 40+, gaunt-looking face with heavy creases in face and sunken eyes. Wearing a lightweight insulated jacket (black), a Beanie hat (black) and tracksuit trousers (black); may be wearing white sliders and using a crutch.

As a precautionary measure, we are reminding students to:

1. **Walk in pairs:** Encourage your child to walk in pairs whenever possible. This not only fosters a sense of companionship but also enhances their safety.
2. **Be aware of surroundings:** Emphasise the importance of being aware of their surroundings. Students should remain vigilant and report any unusual activity or concerns.
3. **Immediate action if concerned:** Should your child ever feel uneasy or suspicious, instruct them to:
 - Return to school immediately, if they are close enough to be able to do so safely
 - Contact you or another responsible adult
 - Report their concerns to school staff

Form Tutors will be addressing this issue in Form Time over the next few school days. Thank you for your support.

The Hinchingbrooke Response – update from Mr Hobley, Head of Year 8 and Associate Principal

Following our launch of 'The Hinchingbrooke Response' last September, this week's assemblies have been the second in a series that focuses on our one school rule of Respect.

We talked to students about the importance of speaking with consideration and kindness to all members of the Hinchingbrooke community and the impact that our words and actions have on those around us. We were very pleased by the attention that students paid to what we said. Our aim is that the Hinchingbrooke Response work we are doing will result in even greater courtesy in communication in our community – for example, when staff are reminding students of our expectations and giving them instructions, the importance of all students responding considerately and kindly.

Cycle safety - message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

We regularly speak to students about cycle safety and wanted to share the key points with you so that you can reiterate them at home:

- Students need to ensure they cycle safely and with consideration of other road / pavement users at all times
- We strongly advise students to wear cycle helmets and to use cycle lights when needed
- Students should use crossings where available - rather than cut across traffic
- Students should dismount their bikes when using any crossings, particularly the one right outside the main entrance to the school
- Students should walk their bikes once on school grounds
- Students should ensure their bike is locked inside the bike shed for their year group, preferably using a D-lock for greater security

Learning Performance Workshop Today - message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal



Students from Years 7-11 enjoyed a special 2-hour workshop today with 'Easyjet Steve', who has been back in school to get students to work on their motivation and resilience skills. The Year 7 and 8 session was lively - to say the least! - and there was a lot of laughter and engagement. Years 9-11 were a little more reticent to join in, but feedback was very positive, and students were certainly given a whole raft of strategies to try out before the second session on 18th March.

Save the Date...Easter School for Year 11 – message from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

Calling on all Year 11s to save the date for Easter School - Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th April. Information on what subjects students can sign up for will be out straight after half term. Each day will involve 4 hours in one subject as an intensive day of revision. So...make sure your Year 11 child is available to make the most of this fabulous opportunity!

GCSEPod Update 26 January 2024 – from Mrs Gratton, Head of Maths and Associate Principal



I am delighted to share the most recent winners in each year group and to recognise their hard work. Congratulations, all!

Y7: A Singh

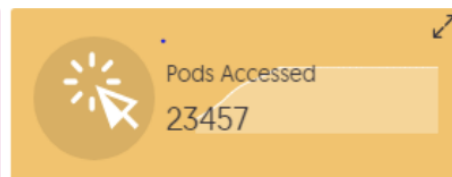
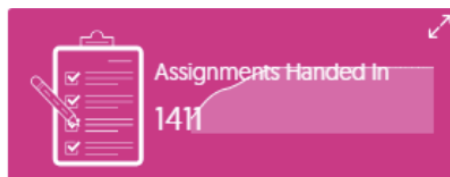
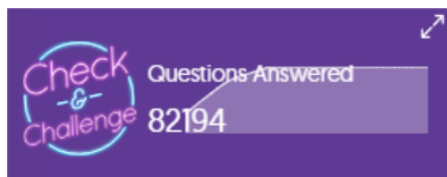
Y8: A Vardhi

Y9: T Hemingway-Storey & R McElhone

Y10: E Burgess & Z Amini

Y11: A Bateman & T Price

In addition, our student body continues to break records set for the number of questions answered using the Check and Challenge facility, the completed assignments and pods watched. About 80% of students are using GCSEPod and benefitting from the platform! Well done, everyone!



If your child hasn't logged on, please do encourage them to follow the instructions found in the toolkit on the school's front website page.

<https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=GCSEPod&pid=1005>



[GCSEPod](https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net)

www.hinchingbrookeschool.net

Year 9 - Men/DTP Vaccination reminder – message from Mrs K Goff, Medical Room Manager

As per recent communications, the Vaccination Team will be visiting on Monday 5th February for all Year 9 students. If you are wanting your child vaccinated, please ensure you have consented via the link provided in the email that has been sent out recently.

The [e-consent](#) link will close the evening of Sunday 4th February.

HBK Murder Mystery Performance – message from Mr Till and the Drama Department

Last night, sixth formers and staff were invited to a murder mystery event! Written and performed by sixth form students currently completing the Silver Arts Award as part of their enrichment, it was a fantastic event that revealed many twists and turns to keep the audience on their toes! When Mr Brooke is suddenly shot after signing his will, the audience were taken through the rooms of Hinchbrook House where Detective Henry Wylton enlisted their help. The wife, daughter, butler, mistress, gardener and business partner were all possible suspects. After countless questions, the puzzle pieces began to come together, and secrets were revealed ending with the murderer shooting Detective Wylton! Very exciting!

As a department we would like to thank all performers for their effort and time and all staff and sixth formers who attended the event and showed their support. Thank you, too, to those who donated to the connected charity – Breast Cancer Support.



This week's blog

This week's blog is me taking exception to the notion of '*effortless* superiority'. If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=1255>

Best wishes

Mark Patterson
Principal