



HBK Update, Friday 10 February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your HBK weekly update!

Please – no parking in the school bus bays!

Please do not use the school bus bays to drop off and pick up your child when the buses are there, as this causes a potential health and safety risk – last school year, one of the buses backed into a car that had been parked briefly to pick up a student after school, causing significant damage to the car.

The bus bays are used as a car park for school facilities users from about 3.45pm, after the buses have left, but it should **not** be used in the morning between 8.15 and 8.40 when the buses are scheduled to do the drop-off, or in the afternoon between 3pm and 3.45 when the buses are picking up. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Matilda JR School Production



I was privileged to attend the school production of Matilda last night (it ran for three nights, Tuesday to Thursday) and I was blown away! What a performance! Our students were amazing – we laughed, we cried and we cheered all the way through.

The quality of the performance was extraordinary! I am so proud of our students who took part and our staff who helped them to make it happen! Very well done to Ms Alexander and the whole team for an amazing event!

If your child took part, please tell them a HUGE WELL DONE from me!

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

A reminder that Year 11 have their mocks straight after half term in the Core subjects, the timetable for which can be found [here](#).

Year 13 mocks in some subjects will take place in the week beginning 20th March; the timetable for these exams can be found [here](#). Students will have study leave for this week, although those who study practical subjects may be asked during this time to complete a set number of hours in the department so that their precious practical time is not lost.

Easter School for Year 10 RPE message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

This summer **Year 10** will be sitting their GCSE RPE exam. To help students achieve their full potential they are being offered a 4-hour session revising the RPE topics and skills for both Papers 1 and 2 at the start of the Easter holidays. It is a great way to complete some focused revision. If you are interested in applying for a place, please click [here](#) to complete the form.

The Easter School details for **Year 11** have been emailed to students and Parents and Carers directly, as have the letters for those chosen to take part in Round 3, which has been decided based on need.

GCSEPod – message from Ms Gratton, Head of Maths and Associate Principal

With the second round of mock examinations for Year 11 after half term and the countdown to GCSEs for all of our Year 10 and Year 11 students, GCSEPod have made a series of **free** helpful webinars available for parents and students. If you cannot make any of the live webinars, there are also really useful recordings to watch at your leisure and learn how to navigate the coming months. I do hope that these are of some use.

<https://www.gcsepod.com/webinars-on-demand/>



Webinars On Demand - GCSEPod

Join our award-winning PodUp customer service team for some free webinars on how to make the most out of your GCSEPod subscription for GCSE learning. www.gcsepod.com

Free School Meals Half Term Vouchers – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

The council is pleased to announce that they are continuing to offer the voucher scheme for the February Half Term holiday for eligible children.

- We will issue each eligible child/young person with a £15 voucher via email and/or text by the end of the day on Saturday 11th February
- Vouchers may take until 11.59pm on Saturday 11th February to arrive so please contact the council (see link below) on the following day if you haven't received your voucher. Please include details of your child and their school/setting
- Any children who become eligible up until the 19th February 2023 will also receive a voucher. This will be sent as and when we are notified of this change in circumstance
- Details of the supermarkets which will accept the vouchers and how the voucher scheme works can be found in the frequently asked questions document (link below)
- All vouchers must be claimed by the 16th March. If unclaimed, we are unable to reinstate at a later date.
- If you do not wish to receive the food vouchers, please let your school or setting know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate them.

For more information please click on the relevant link below:

[Parent Letter \(CCC\)](#) / [FAQ Parents – February Half Term Voucher Scheme CCC](#)

If you need to contact the council regarding the vouchers, please click this link: [contact us](#)

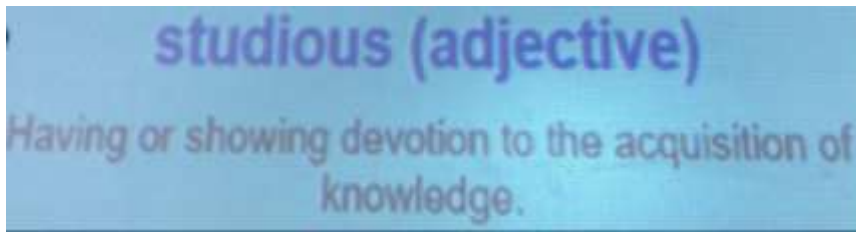
Homework – update from Mrs Solvar-Isida, Assistant Principal

Thanks once again for your continuous support with Homework. This half-term, I met with a number of Years 7-13 students who have been struggling with Homework. The top 3 reasons they gave me for not always completing Homework were: 1) Lack of time 2) Log-in issues for Homework that is set on online platforms and 3) Lack of motivation. I was heartened by the honesty they showed, and I explored with the students some possible solutions to tackle each of those issues, such as:

1. How about attending our Homework club at lunchtime/or the nightclub sessions after school (for year 11s), if your evening time is tight; or set some time aside at the weekend to cover most of the homework for the week ahead?
2. The Homework club offers computer facilities! Also, communicating with teachers when there are issues is also key to finding solutions
3. Lack of motivation can affect any of us and working to overcome this is a crucial skill! One easy fix is to share with someone that we are lacking motivation in whatever it is - we can all do with talking things through from time to time

Hopefully, we will be seeing some improvements next half-term!

The word for the day one day this week was '**studious**' and, here is one definition that was shared with students:



We can all agree that being studious is a quality we would like all of our students/children to display, therefore it was heartening to see this keyword being discussed in a year 7 form class - the highlight was when the students themselves made the connection between having knowledge organisers and this desirable outcome - it was like a penny-drop moment! Amazing!

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

There is a lot going on in the Sixth Form! I thought I would provide you with a quick snapshot of some key activity over the next few weeks, that is happening alongside the hard work in lessons and in the private study rooms:

- Congratulations to the students who represented us at the Chemistry Race - we performed extremely well against 60 other schools, that were mostly independent schools
- 'Medsoc' continues on a fortnightly basis with advice and guidance for students who hope to study medicine at university
- We have already had nearly 100 interviews with students hoping to join Sixth Form in September **from other schools** - 30 of our current year 12s were crucial in welcoming these students, organising tours and making sure the event ran smoothly; huge thanks to those students!
- In half-term we have Sixth Form trips off to Berlin (history) and Florence (maths);
- A starter for 10: which quiz is Mr Ragdale introducing to the Sixth Form after half-term? Yes it's 'University Challenge'! More details to follow
- Finally, here is a copy 'Open House', our new Sixth Form magazine, written by (mostly!) and for the students: [Open House – Issue 1, Spring 2023](#)



Message for Year 11 students/Parents and Carers re: HBK Sixth Form Applications

We have nearly finished our 'Futures' Meetings with those students who have applied for a place in Sixth Form. We will be sending out conditional offers to all those who met a member of staff and who currently qualify for a place to study with us in September 2023 soon after half term.

Young Carers – message from Mrs Field, Senior Cover Supervisor and Young Carers Champion

We are delighted to announce that after a very successful first few months of our Young Carers program, we have been awarded the Carer Friendly Tick award by Centre 33!

This is in recognition of the hard work and the organising that goes into activities and events, monitoring the wellbeing of our Young Carers and providing a safe space for the Young Carers to be themselves. So far, we have had a festive trip to the pantomime and fun bowling sessions, and we have also been cooking up a storm in the cooking department (not literally!), as well as completing training courses in First Aid and Fire Safety.



In the coming weeks the Young Carers will be taking part in the pancake flipping competition, Easter egg hunt and Zumba to burn off all that chocolate!

Huge thanks to all the staff that have helped with various activities but thanks most of all to our Young Carers for getting involved and making this happen.

If you think your child qualifies as a Young Carer, please do get in touch with Mrs Field at nfield@hbk.acesmat.uk

Vacancies at HBK



LEVEL 3 INCLUSION WORKER

We are looking for a highly motivated and committed Inclusion Worker to join our dedicated Alternative Provision Team at our Gateway School until July 2023.

Please see [ACES Academies Trust - Level 3 Inclusion Worker](#) for further information.



COVER SUPERVISOR

We are looking for a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our established, dynamic and friendly Cover Team.

Please see [ACES Academies Trust - Cover Supervisor](#) for further information.

SEND Event – message from Cambridgeshire County Council



SEND Transformation Parent / Carer Event

9 March 2023 | Burgess Hall, St Ives | 10am - 1.30pm

Come along to find out about the changes we are making to improve the SEND system.

Share your views and learn more about:

- Special School places
- EHCP processes
- SEN Support
- Information sharing (Local Offer)
- Building confidence in the system



Book now via Eventbrite | Scan the QR CODE or visit the link below:
<https://bit.ly/sendtransformation>



Cambridgeshire County Council is holding an event on SEND Transformation for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs (SEND). This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to find out about the changes we are making to improve the system and to share their views and experiences.

Free Art Exhibition at Hinchingsbrooke House – February Half Term

CAYAC
Cambridgeshire
Young Artists
Competition

CAYAC 2023

Celebrating the very best of student art and art teaching in schools across the county

Saturday 18th February 2023 10am to 4pm

The Library, Hinchingsbrooke House, Brampton Road, Huntingdon, PE29 3BN

Hosted by
Hinchingsbrooke
School

CAYAC
Exhibition
2023

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Hinchingsbrooke House is proud to be hosting a big art competition over February half-term – with entries from schools across Cambridgeshire.

Over 250 pieces of individual artwork will be on display, with entries from students ranging right the way up from 4 years old through to 18.

Organised by the Huntingdonshire Arts Society, it will be the first time the competition has run since before COVID. Winners will be announced in the afternoon – but there will also be a public vote on the day.

Entry is **FREE**, with doors open on Saturday 18th February, between 10am and 4pm.

Young Arts Secretary, Rosemary Huckle, described the range of entries as “a rich variety of outstanding work for people to come and see.” So come along – and be prepared to be amazed at the high standard of work on display!

Showstopper Dance Production – message from Ms Phillips, Head of Dance



For further information about this event, please see our letter from Mrs Phillips: [Showstopper Dance Production](#)

Message from the Local Authority



We have been asked by the Local Authority to pass on the following information regarding vaccinations over the half term break.

[Vaccinators on Tour – Letter to Parents and Carers](#)
[Vaccinators on Tour – Half Term Schedule](#)

This week's blog

This week's blog is about whole class questioning that teachers do. If you would like to read it, it's here: <https://learningisthething.com/?p=876>

Wishing you all a lovely half term!

Mark Patterson
Principal