



HBK Update, Friday 20 January 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your weekly HBK Friday update!

National Education Union (NEU) strikes update

Just a reminder that the NEU have announced the following strike days that will affect HBK: 1 February, 1 March, 15 March and 16 March - the vast majority of secondary school teachers are members of a union, but there are several unions and at the moment, only the NEU has announced strike action. A good number of HBK teachers are members of the NEU and in law they are only obliged to tell us whether they intend to strike on the day of the strike itself – this is one of the things that makes planning for the strike days challenging. At the moment, we are focusing on the first strike on 1 February and we believe that many HBK teachers who are members of the NEU are likely to tell us their intentions before the day, if they know them.

Another factor for us to take into account in our planning is those staff who have young children attending nursery and Primary schools who may be absent on the strike day because those nurseries and Primary schools are shut and they are unable to make alternative arrangements – again, we may not know this until near or on the strike day on 1 February. Some of the key questions we will seek to answer in our planning for all strike days (but initially for the 1 February strike day) are:

- Can we **safely** open to all students on the strike day?
- If we cannot **safely** open to all students, can we safely open to some students? If so, which ones?
- What work will students do if they are working from home on the day? (of course, if this required, we will make provision for remote learning)

We will give you as much notice as possible of our plans for 1 February and we will certainly update you again next week. Of course, we remain hopeful that the unions and the Government will come to an understanding that results in the strikes not happening. However, you may wish to make your own contingency arrangements, if you feel these are needed, in the event that HBK is shut on 1 February.

Year 7 Parents' Evening scheduled for 1 February

Coincidentally, the Year 7 Parents' evening is scheduled for 1 February – the first NEU strike day. If we need to postpone the parents' evening as a result of the impact of the strike on HBK, we will give you as much notice as possible and we will reschedule it; at the moment, no decision to postpone the event has been made.

Additional Bank Holiday, 8 May 2023 – the school will be closed on this day

The Government has recently written to schools to announce a one-off bank holiday on Monday 8 May 2023 to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. School will be closed on this day. We will reopen as normal on Tuesday 9 May.

School Trips and Arbor – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

We have previously communicated our vision of moving as many school systems as possible over to our new Arbor Management Information System (which we call ARBOR) in order to make everyone's lives easier! The next wave of this project is to move trips onto Arbor and from February half-term all information, including payment information,

regarding new trips will be sent and collected via Arbor. Trips which already have payment plans will remain on the current system. We feel this is a positive move and the Primary schools within ACES have already been using Arbor for trips successfully, so we know from them that it can work very well.

Year 11 applications for a place in the HBK Sixth Form – message from Mrs Rix, Head of Sixth Form

We have so far had 193 applications from our Year 11 students to join our Sixth Form. Over the next few weeks, students will be receiving an invitation to their 'Futures Meeting' with a member of the Sixth Form team or a member of the school's senior leadership team to discuss their application and subject choices – this is a part of our normal process and nothing for your child to be worried about! We look forward very much to meeting your child!

'Learning Performance' Workshops – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

On Thursday 19th a small number of Year 11 and Year 13 students were invited to take part in a workshop designed to get students to think in different ways, believe in themselves and be more resilient. It was delivered by "Steve", distinctive for his orange shoes who is an experienced and motivational speaker! The sessions were both high quality and great fun. The students involved will complete a follow-up workshop on 6th March. Well done to all those who have taken part so far, we hope there were plenty of ideas and techniques which can be used in the last few months to help them achieve their full potential.

What's going on in Year 11? - message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

As the summer exams speed towards us at a pace, there are so many opportunities for Year 11 improve their performance! In a bid to share this with you as parents, we have created a [Year 11 Calendar](#). This is a document which will evolve and be added to regularly. As such we will send the link to it regularly so you can see what we are offering, and so you can speak to your son/daughter about the opportunities and if they are making the most of them. The more students are involved, the more opportunities they take, the more likely they are to make real improvements.

Literacy update – message from Mrs Wright, English teacher and Literacy Lead



Literacy Recognition Point Rewards: last week, we celebrated the Year 7 achievements and this week, **8si10 were the winners of the 'Golden Book'** for the most Literacy Recognition points earned last term! Our top reader year 8 and the recipient of a book voucher was **Nina Gilby 8si10**. Well done, Nina!

Guest Readers: During their year 8 visit this week, our guest readers reported that: *"The students were thoroughly engaged with reading."* *"Students were tracking their copies with a ruler to show their engagement and to help develop their reading."* *"We had some wonderful discussions about the book."* *"All I could hear was silence and the gentle hum of a tutor reading...perfect."*

If you have the opportunity, please ask your child about their Guided Reading book and, once again, thank you for your continued support of the HBK Literacy Team.

'Those who read, succeed.'

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.

We look forward to seeing you!

Cambridge University Hospitals Careers Day – message from Mr O'Shaughnessy, teacher of Business and CEIAG (Careers) Manager

Cambridge University Hospitals are collaborating with West Suffolk College to host an information day for all careers available at CUH. Saturday 11th February 2023 10am. Meet members of their friendly workforce from a range of departments who will be there to discuss the great job opportunities available at CUH. This is the perfect opportunity to find out what career path may suit you. This event is open to everyone, whatever stage you are in your career or education. They have many different entry roles. 'With so many options and routes into employment, we welcome anyone looking for a new career path. From administration careers to nursing, there is something for everyone. Here is your chance to talk to a variety of areas including - Apprenticeships & Work Experience, Learning & Development, the Care Team, Volunteers, Allied Health Professionals (including - Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Diagnostic Radiography, Therapeutic Radiography) & Healthcare Sciences.' 'We very much look forward to meeting you. Register your interest today and drop by between 10am and 2pm.' Further information and booking details can be found here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cambridge-university-hospitals-careers-day-tickets-510522495527>

For further information call Recruitment on 01223 217038

Huntingdon Futures Project – message from Miss Palmer, PSHCE Lead & Mr O'Shaughnessy, Careers Lead

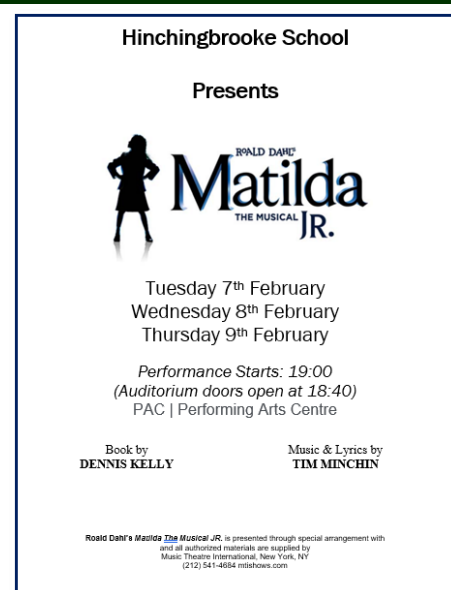
This week a number of PSHCE classes have participated in a project giving them a voice about the future of Huntingdonshire. Below are some details about the project. Parents and carers may also wish to find out more and participate via the website below.

The District Council is leading Huntingdonshire Futures, a new strategy that will shape a vision for the future of the area by incorporating People, Place, the Economy, and Environment. Great communities and places do not just happen by chance. They happen because stakeholders, residents and businesses share a clear vision of what type of place they want to be. This will guide future strategy and policy developments and investment decisions made by the Council and partners. It will enable more effective delivery of services and facilities to better serve the current and future needs of our residents, communities, and businesses.

Over recent months we have been out and about at pop-up events, resident focus groups, schools, community groups and dedicated stakeholder workshops to capture the views of people and organisations across the District.

The project team have developed a draft strategy, which is based on that engagement, alongside evidence and learning from other places. It puts forward a destination for Huntingdonshire and route map for how to get there. We want to test that plan with local people, including the students of Hinchingsbrooke, to ensure that it meets their needs and aspirations for Huntingdonshire. This is their opportunity to shape the future of their District and the way in which we'll work together to get there.

Website: <https://huntingdonshirefutures.net/> There will be a range of online discussions sessions in January which parents and carers can sign up for. There will also be an opportunity to comment on the draft report via the website next year.



This week's blog

This week's blog is a very general one, about school improvement. If you would like to read it, it's here: [How to improve a school? – Learning is the thing](#)

Have a great weekend. We are HBK.

Mark Patterson
Principal