



ParentMail

Has sent you a message

HBK Update, Tuesday 9 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Wider reopening for Year 10 and Year 12 students

Around 200 families responded to our survey asking whether their Year 10 child would be coming into school from the week beginning 22 June – that is a high response rate, and a significant majority of those parents that responded said their child will be attending school, which is great news! We are now creating the small groups that students will be in for those days they will spend in school and we will be in touch again soon with details about which group your child will be in and when we would like them to come into school.

90% of Year 12 had students responded to our survey by the deadline, too, and they will start to come into school from the week beginning 15 June.

Home working

We know that this is a hard time for families. Learning at home cannot replace learning at school and whilst our teachers are doing their best to set good-quality work for students to do, we know this is not as good as being in school every day, with specialist face-to-face teaching and all the other advantages that being in school brings. We last sent you our list of expectations for students during lockdown on 1 May, and this was at least partly designed to give parents confidence that all anyone can expect in these times is to do what is reasonable. Below is an updated summary of our expectations, or top tips. Perhaps more useful will be a detailed document called '**Remote working at HBK – update**' that Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal is now working on; he will send you that document as soon as it is ready, at the latest next week.

Our expectations / top tips for parents to talk through with HBK students

1. Do your best to keep safe by following Government guidelines, especially by social distancing and frequent hand washing.
2. Aim to follow your school timetable as far as possible each day – having a good Monday to Friday working routine is important. Make sure you have all the equipment you need and a reasonably quiet space in which to work, and get started at a reasonable time in the morning.
3. Aim to meet work requirements and any deadlines set by your teachers – learning at home now is just as important as learning at school was before Lockdown. All learning is good. Concentrate well and work to the best of your ability. It's worth remembering that if you find the work hard, you're doing good work!
4. Where there is an issue that means you can't manage to do a full school day, such as having to share a computer or help out with a younger sister or brother, do as much as you can and try to catch up later, when you have time
5. Let your teachers know if you have an issue and if you are unsure about something, or have a question, email the appropriate person - your tutor, your subject teacher etc... - straight away. If you need or want feedback on a specific piece of work, email your teacher, who will be pleased to help.

6. Remember to take breaks - staff only expect you to do a reasonable amount of work; and take daily exercise.

Education Scotland has produced a nice summary of its own top tips for parents, which can be found here: <https://education.gov.scot/media/k0tplfrb/faqs-top-tips.pdf>

FAQ 4 I've heard that secondary schools might only be partially open next year, at least during the autumn term. Is that likely?

We don't know, because we don't know what the situation will be as September approaches. The Government updates its guidance to schools very regularly, in line with the latest information about coronavirus and the advice of its scientists and medical experts. We are expecting to receive guidance from the Government both before the summer holiday and during the summer holiday and that guidance will inform our planning for the autumn term. All we can definitely say for now is that we are currently creating the school timetable for next year for all students, to start in September, as we do every year.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal