

## GENERAL NEWS

### Face coverings – new guidance

You will have seen that the government has issued new guidance on face coverings. This is the DfE clarification of that guidance:

From Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.

From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

This means that, as of Thursday 20th, students should continue to wear masks when moving around indoors and when in communal spaces e.g. in the cloister corridors and the Refectory. As of the 27th masks need not be worn anywhere.

### 12-15 COVID-19 vaccination programme – Change of date

The date has been brought forward for the School Immunisation Team to deliver the second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine for students aged 12 to 15 years old. They will now visit Hockerill on Tuesday 1st February. For a student to receive a vaccination at this session, consent MUST be given (for either first or second dose). Further details and a link to the consent form can be found in [this letter](#).

### Isolation periods for people who test positive for COVID-19 have changed

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 now have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature. The day when they developed symptoms or tested positive is counted as day zero.

For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported via the link below:

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

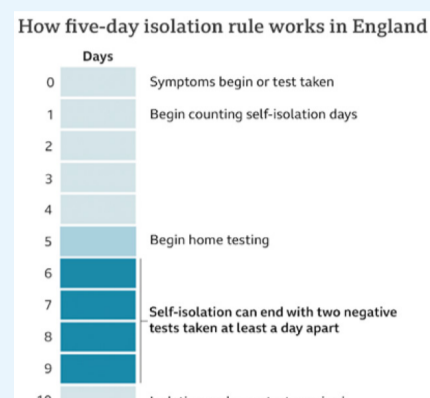
If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone unable to take LFD tests or who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day self-isolation period.

This change applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.

Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available via the link below:

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



### Flu Vaccination

If your child still requires a Flu Vaccination and is not yet protected against this year's Flu, then please find further details [here](#) to arrange an appointment.

## HOCKERILL NEWS

### Refectory News

We are so pleased that the College has introduced for the first time ever, Halal meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays for our Muslim students!

At Hockerill, including everyone, embracing all cultural differences and diversity and respecting all beliefs are core values of ours. As a Muslim student, this new addition to our wonderful refectory's menu, makes us feel so accepted and honoured, that our special food requirements have been taken into consideration and integrated as part of the school's services. Given the huge range of dietary needs across the entire student body, it is unlikely for schools to be able to cater towards each and every one of them, so having this option is both a huge luxury and privilege.

We can now enjoy eating delicious meals using halal alternatives thanks to this change- a huge thank you to all the cooks and the entire refectory staff on behalf of all Muslim students here at Hockerill!

### Maryam Mohsin

Year 12



### Visit from EU Ambassador

We were honoured to welcome the EU Ambassador to the United Kingdom, João Vale de Almeida, to Hockerill to speak to our Sixth Form students on Thursday. Thank you to Year 13 student Sofia Miccolis for organising such a thought provoking and fascinating talk.



### Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Education around healthy relationships has long been established in our school but recently the Department for Education devised a new Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum that schools are required to deliver. This covers key issues in relation to sexual abuse and harassment, particularly the area of consent, at age-appropriate levels for children in different key stages. We shared our RSE Policy in the Hub last year and asked for your feedback. As a reminder, the policy can be [found here](#) and we continue to welcome any feedback you have on what is taught and how it is taught. Please send your feedback to [mccullocha@hockerill.com](mailto:mccullocha@hockerill.com)

### Considerate Driving

Please be reminded that the College car park is for staff and agreed visitors only. Dropping off and collecting your child in the car park can cause considerable congestion in Dunmow Road. We also politely request that parents that park in the surrounding roads do so with thought and consideration for the local community. Please obey any restrictions in place and we ask you not to park in an obstructive manner. However, we strongly encourage students to use a sustainable method of travel and walk or cycle to College wherever possible.

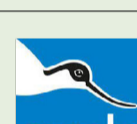
It has also been reported to us, on a number of occasions, that some cars driving through the College site are travelling at an excessive speed. We urge parents to drive carefully and considerately when visiting the College.

### Coming Soon - 2022 Big Garden Bird Watch

Staff and students at the College are undertaking a range of activities in preparation for this year's Big Garden Bird Watch which takes place from the 28th to the 30th of January. This is an ideal activity to support health and wellbeing as well as helping to monitor national number of bird species for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The RSPB has some excellent free resources available for anyone to download from their website [www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/) to make the event both fun and simple to take part in.

### Mr C Gilman



## BOARDING NEWS

### Boarding Parent Forum – Wednesday 26th January 1900hrs

A reminder that there is an online Boarding Parent Forum meeting scheduled for Wednesday 26th January at 1900hrs. I would be grateful if questions could be submitted prior to the event via the [link here](#). The deadline for questions is Monday 24th January 1700hrs, the questions submitted will define the agenda items.

Information on how to join the meeting and the agenda will be sent to parents via email on Tuesday.

### Mr W Conolly

Director of Boarding

## MUSIC NEWS

### Instrumental, Vocal and Theory Lesson Notice Deadlines

We hope that your children enjoy and look forward to their music lessons. If for any reason they are not enjoying their lessons, please let us know so that we can address the situation.

Please be aware that if you would like to stop lessons at any point, you must let us know in writing. The table below gives the notice deadlines for the rest of this year:

Want to Stop Lessons at:	Deadline to let us know by:
End of Lent Term 2022 (March)	Friday 4 February 2022
Summer - end of first half of term 2022 (May)	Friday 18 March 2022
End of Academic Year 2022 (July)	Friday 20 May 2022

It is important for us to have these deadlines, giving our peripatetic staff sufficient notice to find a replacement student. It also minimises disruption for timetabling and the Finance Department.

### Important Message for Parents of students in Years 11 and 13

We would like to remind you that that music lessons **will not stop automatically** on the approach to the exam period. If your child wishes to stop lessons at the end of the Lent term you must inform us in writing by **Friday 4 February**.

If your child is in Year 11 and hopes to return to Hockerill for Sixth Form, we would be delighted if they chose to continue having their music lessons with us in September. If they wish to either continue their lessons, or take up a new instrument, please ensure that you fill in the electronic application form included in your Welcome Pack in the Summer term. You can also request to remain with the same teacher on this form.

Please contact us at [musicadmin@hockerill.com](mailto:musicadmin@hockerill.com) if you have any queries.

### Fundraising at Christmas Carol Concert

Grove Cottage would like to thank everyone who made a donation at the Christmas Carol Concert.

£183.76 was raised. This money will help to provide a wide range of clubs and activities for people of all ages with learning disabilities.

### Mr O Bond

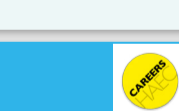
Director of Music

## CAREERS NEWS

### Hult International Business School

Hult will be in College on Monday 24th January to run a Masterclass with Mr Hopkins' Year 12 Business students; they will also be available at 1300hrs in B1 to talk to Sixth Form students about their courses, the application process and what they have to offer.

For more information please [see here](#).



### NCS Summer Programme for year 11 and 12 students

NCS will be in college on Thursday 27th January to give an assembly to Year 11 students, they will also be available at break time to answer any questions they have and then will be in the Sixth Form Centre at lunch time to talk to any year 12s who would like to learn more about the programme. If you would like more information, [please click here](#).



For more information please [see here](#).

### Free University opportunities for students in Year 10 and 12

Please find links below to programmes that aim to help high achieving black African and black Caribbean students, and, students of mixed race with black African and Caribbean heritage, increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge.

Since launching in 2012, Target Oxbridge has helped over 280 students to secure Oxbridge offers. The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12 (as well as, in certain circumstances Year 13).

Target Bath is a free programme that supports Black African and Caribbean students, including mixed race students, to gain places at the University of Bath. The University of Bath is ranked 6th in the UK and leads in placement years and employability. The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12.

[Target Oxbridge](#)

[Target Bath](#)

[Rare School Programmes](#)

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

Supporting Links Workshops – ASD and ADHD

Please [find details here](#) of workshops for parents of young people with ASD and ADHD.



## HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

### Volunteers for the '250 Club' needed

At the end of this academic year, we'll be bidding goodbye to our two fantastic '250 Club' volunteers, Clodagh and Lindsay, and we are looking for new parents to take on their roles.

The '250 Club' is Hockerill's very own lottery and all the money raised goes straight back into school projects for the benefit of your children.

You do not need any special qualifications to volunteer and we will guide you through the process, with plenty of ongoing support.

Lindsay says; "Clodagh and I have really enjoyed our time managing The 250 Club. We've met lots of other parents and had the opportunity to get involved in new parents' mornings and school events. Ideally, it's best suited to two friends, who live locally and like meeting monthly for coffee or wine and a catch up!"

For more information, please email [hpf@hockerill.com](mailto:hpf@hockerill.com)

Thank you in advance for your support.

