

HOCKERILL NEWS

Attendance Data

The government has recently published data about school attendance during the pandemic and it makes for an interesting read. The report notes that since students have returned to face-to-face learning, some students have not returned to school and have in effect been 'lost' from the system. Attendance in school is critical as good attendance enables good achievement and we are determined that our students should have the best possible attendance record and opportunity to succeed.

Currently our attendance stands at about 94.6% which is very pleasing given the continuing challenges of Covid. We are not content with this figure however and we want to encourage every student and their family to strive to achieve 100% attendance. Quick wins to facilitate this include good routines at home, wherever possible avoiding absences in term time, understanding the Covid self-isolation rules and respecting the student's right to attend school and learn with their teachers. Thank you to everyone that works to achieve this. If you would like help or assistance with any aspect of your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to work with you and try and remove any barriers to attending.

Further information and guidance about attendance at the College can be found in our [Attendance Policy](#)

College premises

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 strongly encourage students to use a sustainable method of travel and walk or cycle to College wherever possible.

Day students should not be dropped at College any earlier than 0830hrs and should leave the premises by 1600hrs if they are not attending a club at the end of the school day.

Enrichment Day 2

Thursday 24th February will be an off-timetable day for all students so that they can take part in the College's second enrichment day. These days are designed to support what students have learnt in class, develop ATL skills and provide opportunities beyond the normal school routine. All students should come to College in full school uniform and should have with them their pencil case equipment. Students who are taking part in activities in school should also have with them a fully charged laptop.

Letters have been to parents of students going out on trips with specific information but as a reminder students should bring a packed lunch (boarders will be provided with a packed lunch) and a coat, particularly Year 7 students going to Duxford as the site is very exposed.

An overview of activities is as follows:

Year 7	Trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum
Year 8	African drumming and sound day
Year 9	Community Project
Year 10	Drug and alcohol awareness talks and workshops
Year 11	Elective GCSE subject preparation
Year 12	Introduction to the Extended Essay
Year 13	Trip to a selection of Cambridge museums

Six Hockerill students offered places at Oxford or Cambridge for 2021

We are delighted to announce that six of our International Baccalaureate Diploma students have received offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge this year. Assuming exam results go as expected, heading off to Oxford are Hanna Gualandi for Music at Exeter College, plus has also been awarded a choral scholarship and Elisenda Henderson for Geography at Keble College. Students offered places at Cambridge are Emma Troman for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Peterhouse, plus has also been awarded an organ scholarship, Freya Tischkowitz for Human, Social and Political Sciences at Murray Edwards College, Leila Trusty for Human, Social and Political Sciences at Downing College and Sofia Miccolis for Natural Sciences at Girton.

Principal, Mr David Woods, said:

'We are delighted with this outcome. To have such a high proportion of our Sixth Form gain places at Oxbridge is testament to the students and the IB Diploma qualification. The IB is such a great course for developing students intellectual and personal qualities, plus is great preparation for university study.'

With the UK deadline for all other applicants for UCAS less than a fortnight ago, Hockerill have been delighted with the response their students are receiving from the higher education sector, with a broad range of courses from a large number of highly regarded institutions.

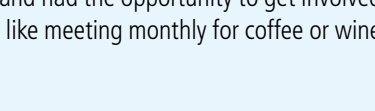
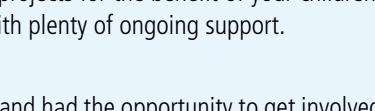
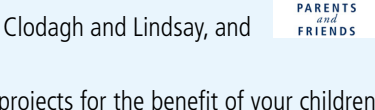
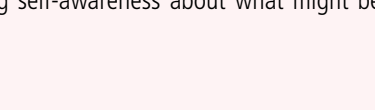
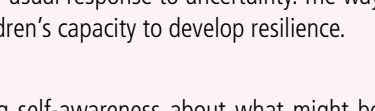
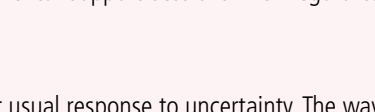
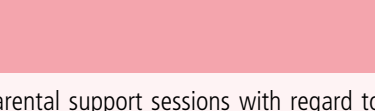
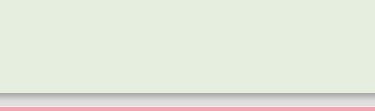
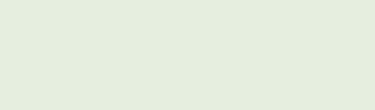
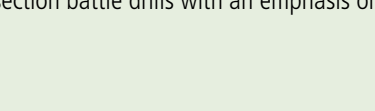
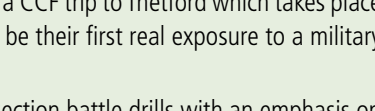
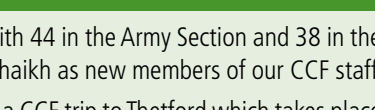
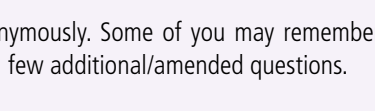
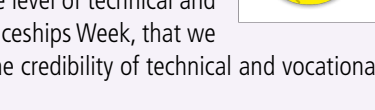
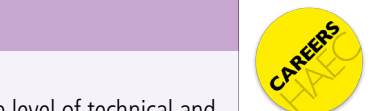
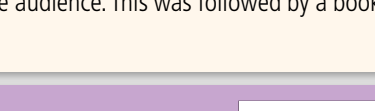
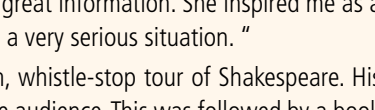
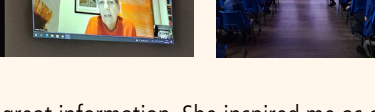
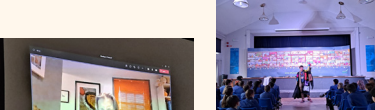
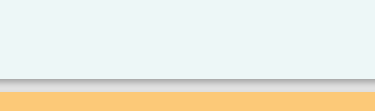
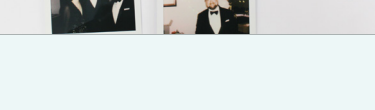
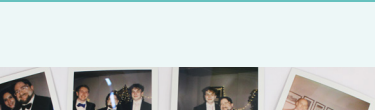
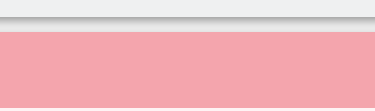
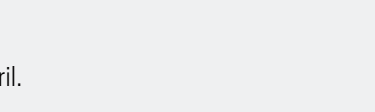
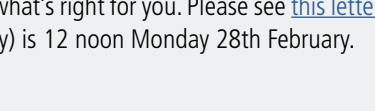
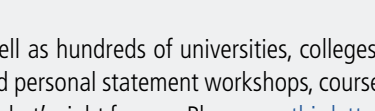
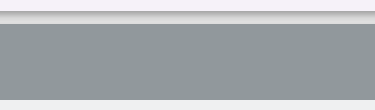
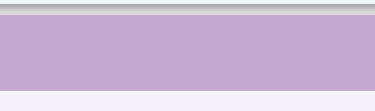
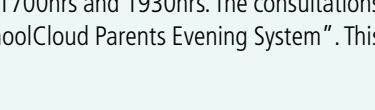
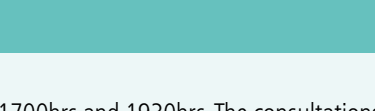
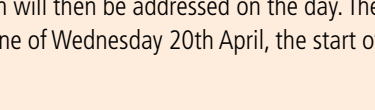
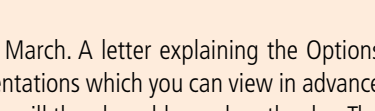
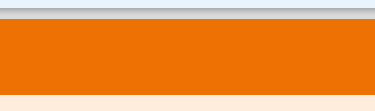
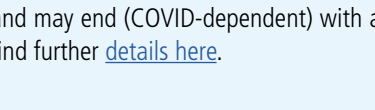
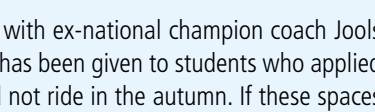
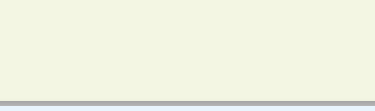
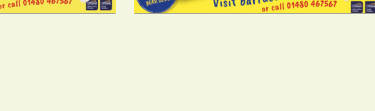
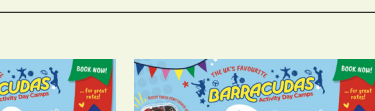
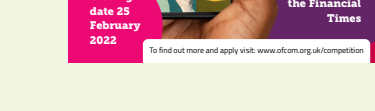
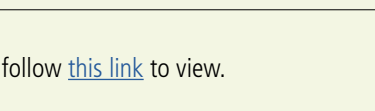
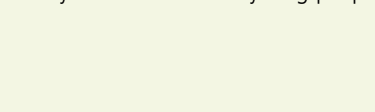
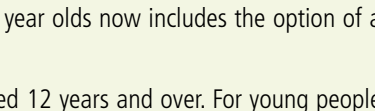
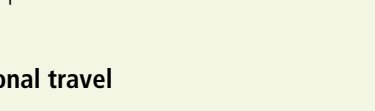
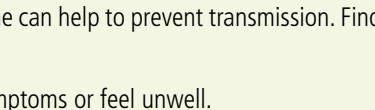
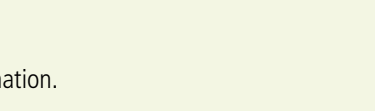
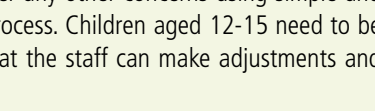
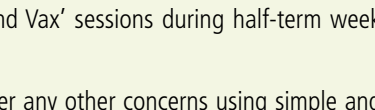
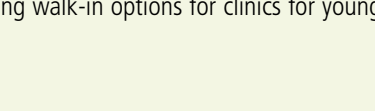
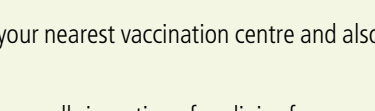
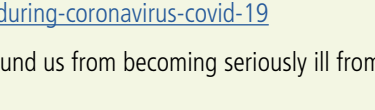
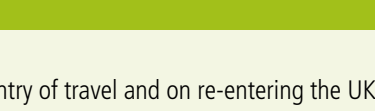
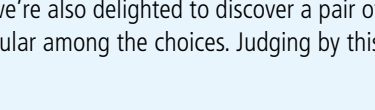
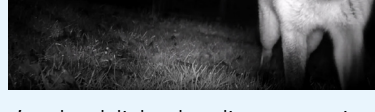
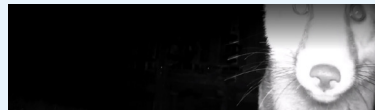
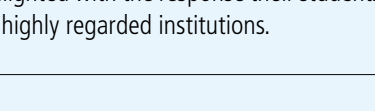
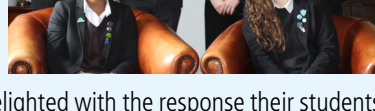
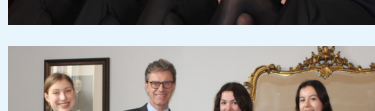
Nurturing Nature Club

During the first half of Lent term students have been busy with a range of activities learning about the campus, its biodiversity and potential. Through the Nurturing Nature club students have planted some saplings, worked on their knowledge of birds and trees, carried out initial census work, and started to build a picture of what makes our College greenspace genuinely special.

We have ambitious aims to continue this activity with plans such as a pond improvement, planting wildflowers and creating wildlife highways to facilitate the movement of wildlife across the campus.

The Hub has previously featured a short article on the discovery of a pair of badgers on campus and we're also delighted to discover a pair of foxes. Students will be undertaking roles of species champions with the badgers and foxes being popular among the choices. Judging by this capture from one of our wildlife cameras there's also a healthy interest in what we're up to!

Mr C Gilman



GENERAL NEWS

COVID-19 Information

If you're travelling abroad this half-term be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK, you can find the latest travel guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

- Get vaccinated** - vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

Young people aged 12-18 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) can find out more, including walk-in options for clinics for young people, and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

- Half term COVID-19 'Relax and Vax' sessions for nervous teenagers**

Five of the larger vaccination centres around Hertfordshire and west Essex are running 'Relax and Vax' sessions during half-term week aimed supporting 12 to 18-year-olds who are nervous about having their COVID-19 vaccine.

Specially trained staff will be on hand to help overcome worries like a fear of needles and answer any other concerns using simple and clinically effective relaxation techniques to help reduce tension and support them through the process. Children aged 12-15 need to be accompanied by a consenting parent or carer and just mention they're nervous on arrival so that the staff can make adjustments and they're given plenty of time and support.

You can find a list of participating venues and times at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

People under 18 who have recently had COVID-19 must wait 12 weeks before having their vaccination.

- Test regularly – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest

Please do not send children and young people back to school following half-term if they have any symptoms or feel unwell.

We hope you enjoy a healthy and safe half-term.

Children aged 12 to 15 years old can now obtain a digital NHS COVID Pass for international travel

To help support international travel, including school trips, the NHS COVID Pass service for 12 to 15 year olds now includes the option of a digital NHS COVID Pass.

The NHS COVID Pass for international travel can be accessed through the NHS website for those aged 12 years and over. For young people aged 13 and over, the NHS App can also be used to access the NHS COVID pass.

Further information on how to get an [NHS COVID Pass](#) is available on the NHS website

Ofsted inspections – a guide for parents

A useful leaflet has been produced for parents of children whose school is due for inspection. Please follow [this link](#) to view.

Ofcom Competition for 16-18 year olds

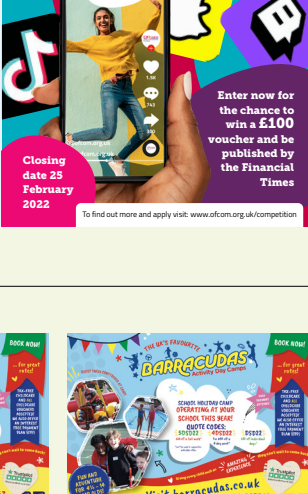
Ofcom recently gained new responsibilities for regulating Video Sharing Platforms. Some of these are services that teenagers commonly use, such as Snapchat, TikTok and Twitch. They wanted to get some of their views about how they can protect young people when they use these services. Regulation is probably quite an obscure subject for students, so the aim of this competition is to raise awareness of Ofcom and what they do.

The details of the competition are available on our website which can be accessed through the link below: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/events/competition>

They want submissions to the question – **What changes are needed to make social video platforms a kinder, safer place for young people?**

Winners will receive a £100 voucher and an invitation to spend a day at Ofcom. And entries can be made via video or as a short written entry.

The competition will close on Friday 25th February.



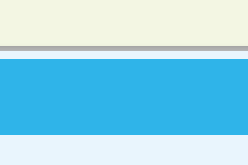
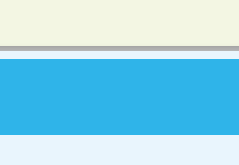
Barracudas Activity Day Camps

The UK's favourite school holiday provider for children aged 4½ to 14 years will open at Hockerill Anglo European College this Easter and summer! 80+ exciting activities including fencing, archery, football, dance and much more! All Barracudas camps are Ofsted registered and have high staff to child ratios, plus parents of Hockerill Anglo European College receive an extra **£10 off per week** if they quote **code HSCH22** at the time of booking.

Open Easter 4th – 14th April

Open summer 25th July – 26th August

Book now at www.barracudas.co.uk or call **01480 467 567**.



YEAR 7

BMX Racing Club

I would like to inform you of the relaunch of the Hockerill BMX Racing Club at the track in Braintree with ex-national champion coach Jools Allen. I would like to resume the club on Wednesday, 27th April with fourteen Year 7 students. Priority has been given to students who applied in September 2021 but missed out on a space. This leaves limited spaces to any other Year 7 who did not ride in the autumn. If these spaces are not all filled, then previous riders will be invited back. The club will initially run for seven weeks and may end (COVID-dependent) with a trip to Lea Valley Velodrome, where we would enjoy track, mountain bike and BMX sessions. Please find further [details here](#).

Mr A Russell

YEAR 9

Options

This year, the Year 9 Options morning event will be held online. It will take place on Saturday 19th March. A letter explaining the Options process will be sent to you on Friday 11th March. The letter will include links to individual subject presentations which you can view in advance of the Options morning. There will be an opportunity to ask questions in advance of the meeting which will then be addressed on the day. The Options choice form will become live on the morning of Monday 21st March with a completion deadline of Wednesday 20th April, the start of the Summer term. Subject choices will be confirmed week commencing Monday 23rd May.

Mr A Mackenzie

Mrs A Geissler

Vice Principal

Head of Year 9

YEAR 10

Student Parent Teacher evening

The Parents' Online Consultation meetings for Year 10 will take place on Thursday 3rd March between 1700hrs and 1930hrs. The consultations will take the form of short video conference meetings via our online Parent Consultation platform "SchoolCloud Parents Evening System". This consultation evening is open to all students in Year 10. Please find [further information here](#).

YEAR 11

Revision Clubs for the Lent Term

Details of the revision clubs available during the Lent Term can be found [here](#).

Mrs N Ashlee-McCrae

YEAR 12

Trip to UCAS Exhibition at London Excel

On Tuesday 15th March we plan to take the whole of Year 12 to the UCAS Exhibition at Excel. As well as hundreds of universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers available to talk to there will also be live application clinics and personal statement workshops, course and careers taster sessions, student talks and Q&As and expert advice on how to research and choose what's right for you. Please see [this letter](#) for more information. The deadline for completing the consent form and making payment via WisePay) is 12 noon Monday 28th February.

Deadlines

Please find a useful [calendar here](#) showing the Year 12 deadlines.

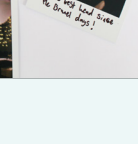
End of Year exams

Year 12 End of Year exams will be held on Friday 22nd April, Monday 25th April and Tuesday 26th April.

BOARDING NEWS

Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting

Full Boarders had the opportunity to experience some shooting with a company who came to deliver laser clay pigeon on Sunday 6th February. This proved to be an exciting activity for the students which they all seemed to enjoy. The students had the opportunity to shoot in a competition scenario with some remarkably interesting results with a winner from Thames House in one category and a winner from Canterbury House in another category.



EQUIPE NEWS

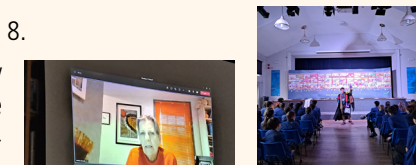
The First Annual Heads of Equipe Dinner

On Friday 4th February, the eight Heads and Deputy Heads of Equipe gathered in the Menet Room for the first Annual Heads of Equipe Dinner. They were joined by Mr Woods, Mr Mackenzie, and Miss Clements. The Refectory excelled themselves and provided a three course meal to rival any on offer anywhere in town, complete with mocktails and live music provided by Gabriel Faes on the piano.

Each guest also got a small blank booklet and took Polaroid photos so stick in and keep as mementos of the evening that will, I hope, be one of their most cherished moments of Year 13. It was the perfect send off for the students who have worked so hard to lead their Equipes for the first time and it has been my very great pleasure and privilege to work with them over this year. I now look to appoint new Heads of Equipe at the start of next half term in the sure knowledge that each pair of students has added to their Equipe and left it a better community and team.

Mr Guy Dinwiddy

Head of Equipes



LIBRARY NEWS

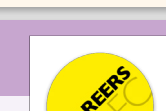
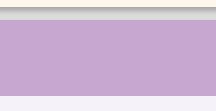
Author visits

We have been extremely lucky to continue our season of author events for students in Year 7 and 8.

Last week, 7R welcomed Anthea Simmons into their Library lesson for a virtual author visit. They had prepared questions about her book 'Burning Sunlight', a fiction book which deals with the serious subject of the impacts of climate change on the wider world, in an engaging and age-appropriate way. 7R student, Alexa, who introduced Anthea at the start of the session, had the following to say after the event:

"When Anthea Simmons was answering our questions, I think that she answered them well and with great information. She inspired me as a young writer, and she inspired me to make a change to the world and realising that climate change is a very serious situation."

This week, it was the turn of the Year 8s. It was great to welcome back Chris Lloyd for an in-person, whistle-stop tour of Shakespeare. His presentations are always fascinating and lively, and he was greeted by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. This was followed by a book sale and signing session.



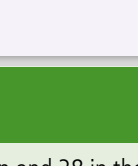
CAREERS

Parent Survey - Apprenticeships

Our school is part of the Hertfordshire Careers Hub and one of their strategic actions is to enhance the level of technical and vocational routes available to young people in the county. They have asked, to mark National Apprenticeships Week, that we share this [survey link](#) with you to complete to help gauge your thoughts, as a key influencer, about the credibility of technical and vocational routes for your child.

The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and all responses will be held anonymously. Some of you may remember completing this survey in previous years. If this is the case, we ask that you re-complete as there are a few additional/amended questions.

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

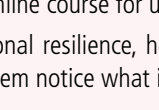
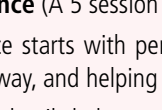
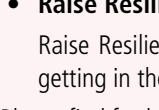


CCF NEWS

This term has proved to be a real success for Hockerill CCF. The contingent now has some 82 Cadets with 44 in the Army Section and 38 in the RAF section, with regular attendance of 70 cadets. We are delighted to introduce Mr Gibson and Mr Shaikh as new members of our CCF staff. The focus for this period was the continuance of weapon training and low-level skills in preparation for a CCF trip to Thetford which takes place in early March. We are delighted to be able to take 45 Cadets on this trip, which for many cadets will be their first real exposure to a military environment, something we are sure they will enjoy.

This will give the cadets the opportunity to practice new skills such as fieldcraft and tactics including section battle drills with an emphasis on self-reliance.

Below you will see some pictures of our cadets enjoying an afternoon of activities run by the CCF.



PARENT WORKSHOPS

As part of the Wellbeing for Education Recovery Hertfordshire have commissioned the following parental support sessions with regard to anxiety and resilience through Bounce Forward. The specific programmes are:

- Anxiety and Resilience** (A three-session on-line course for up to 150 parents)

Children and young people will feel anxious and worried from time to time. Anxiety is a normal or usual response to uncertainty. The way we respond as parents, and deal with our own anxiety plays a significant part in building our children's capacity to develop resilience.