

> HOCKERILL NEWS



Welcome back and Happy New Year

We hope that you have had a good festive period and are ready for the Lent Term and the start of 2023. The term promises to be another busy one with language trips making a welcome return to the calendar. We also welcome two new staff to Hockerill - Mr Donal Maguiness in Maths and Mr James Lee to UCAS and Careers - and a few new students and their families. We look forward to working with all of you and inducting you to the Hockerill community.

As you will be aware the festive period has seen a general rise in flu, cold and covid infections across the UK. The return to school will be a further opportunity for these bugs to spread and so the government has issued the advice below. Essentially, the government are asking that parents:

- **emphasise routines of handwashing**
- **keep your child off school if they are ill and have a temperature**
- **get a flu jab for your child if they are eligible (the NHS Immunisation Team will be in College on Monday 9th January to immunise students in Years 7, 8 and 9 - parents will have received a separate communication)**

We ask that you follow this advice in order that we keep our community of students and adults healthy and in school as much as safely possible.

We wish you an excellent 2023 and look forward to meeting you in College.

Best wishes

David Woods
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 9th January
Flu Immunisations Years 7-9

Thursday 12th January
Year 11 Parent Consultations

Contact us:
General communications to:
admin@hockerill.com

Absence communications to:
absence@hockerill.com

[Year 7 to 11 Student Leave of Absence Form](#)

[Sixth Form Student Leave of Absence Form](#)

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.



Clubs

Please see the Clubs Programme for the Lent Term available via the [website here](#). Please do discuss this with your child over the holidays and encourage them to attend any clubs of interest. Clubs will commence on Monday 9th January.

An individual Year Group timetable has been created and can be found either via the link below or via the College website – [College Life – Co-Curricular](#)

[Year 7 Clubs](#)

[Year 8 Clubs](#)

[Year 9 Clubs](#)

[Year 10 Clubs](#)

[Year 11 Clubs](#)

[Year 12 Clubs](#)

[Year 13 Clubs](#)

Workshops and Projects for students and parents

Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops – Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

Workshops are open to all young people & parents/carers of children and young people who attend a school or are registered to a GP in Hertfordshire. A referral is not needed to access a workshop.

Further details and booking information can be found via [this link](#).

Youth Work Projects

Please find links below to the latest projects that Hertfordshire Youth Work teams are offering in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth.

[Friday Night Project](#)

[LGBT](#)

[Migrant & Care](#)

[Positive Alternatives](#)

[Young People's Participation Project](#)

Carers in Hertfordshire

Please find links below to support groups for parents and carers of young people.

[CAMHS Support Group](#)

[Support for Young People with Mental Health Concerns](#)

Barracudas Activity Day Camps

The school holiday provider for children aged 4½ to 14 years, will be open at our school this year. 80+ exciting activities including archery, arts and crafts, fencing, motorsports, sports, teambuilding, water activities, and much more!

Ofsted registered, confidence building camps with high staff to child ratios, plus parents of the school receive an extra £10 off per child per week if they quote code HSCP23 at the time of booking.

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

