

HOCKERILL NEWS



As you will be aware on **Wednesday 1st February** one of the teaching unions will be taking industrial action. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the teaching unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at the College.

I am sorry to inform you that **Hockerill will be closed to all students on Wednesday February 1st** and so we ask that you not to send your child into school on that day. Full and weekly boarders will be supervised in the boarding houses and flexi boarders may attend but we would prefer that they did not.

We apologise for the disruption that this may cause but after conducting a thorough risk assessment we feel this is the best way to manage the challenge of an unknown and potentially significant number of staff being absent. Learning will be maintained for all those students who have teachers not participating in industrial action by work being set on Teams. Teaching of those lessons will not however be 'live' as they were during lockdowns and the recent snow day. Any student due to have an instrumental music lesson on February 1st will have their lesson online at the usual time with their tutor.

Please accept our apologies that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child but the circumstances mean that we have no other practicable option. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at woods@hockerill.com

David Woods
Principal



IMPORTANT DATES
Wednesday 8th February
 Early finish for all students
 1440hrs (due to Year 7 & Year 8 Student, Parent and Teacher consultations)
Friday 10th February
 Half term holiday
 Depart at 1540hrs
Sunday 19th February
 Boarders return
Monday 20th February
 Term commences
Contact us:
General communications to:
admin@hockerill.com
Exceptional circumstances for leave of absence to:
 Year 7 to 11 Student
[Exceptional Leave of Absence Form](#)
 Sixth Form Student
[Exceptional Leave of Absence Form](#)

Reporting your child's absence

Parents and students are aware that the College is now using EduLink One and we are asking all parents to support us by downloading the App if not already done so. EduLink One can also be accessed via the internet.

From Monday 30th January 2023, the only way to report absences due to illness and advise us of medical appointments will be via the 'Absence Reporting' function in Edulink. Please notify the school via the App before 0830hrs on each day of your child's absence. The option to leave answer phone messages via the main switchboard will be removed and absences must not be notified by e-mail.

We will notify parents via email and/or text if your child is absent from morning registration/Period 1 by 0930hrs if no reason for absence has been given.

In EduLink the date, hour and minute needs to be selected for the start and the end of the absence period. A full reason should be provided for the absence and the details submitted to the school by clicking the 'Send' button.

Should evidence supporting an absence be required, this can be attached using the paper-clip symbol. In the App, parents can switch between their children by clicking on their child's profile picture.

Year 7 trip to Little Canada, Isle of Wight - Reminder of Deadline.

The deadline for the completion of the Level 2 Consent Form and payment of the £75 deposit is **0900hrs on 1st February 2023**. This will secure your child's place on this trip.

Ms McCulloch and Mrs Ashlee-McCrae

Building Healthy Relationships whilst Socializing Online

The use of the internet among young people is now everywhere. The rise in the cultural acceptance of internet relationships between young people and strangers that they play or talk with online, has opened the door to dangers. Yet it is only a small amount of these relationships which turn out malicious, but children and young people may find it difficult to understand when that arises. The Information Commissioners Office, the UK's information rights agency, has published guidance on what to look for when these relationships turn sour. And more importantly, what to do about it. This guidance is applicable to teachers and parents alike. For parents it is an excellent source of help when discussing with internet social life with their children. It aims to help bring parents up to date when it comes to the social world within which their children exist. To find the guidance please follow this [the link](#).

Please click on the poster to view a larger image.



Call for help

The Design & Technology department is looking to acquire pasta machines for students to use in Food practical lessons. If you have a pasta machine that you no longer use and would like to donate it to the College, we would be very grateful.

GENERAL NEWS

Herts Sports Partnership - Opportunity to access funding to support any non-swimmers in years 7 & 8

As you may be aware, many Primary Schools were not able to offer school swimming during Covid. As a consequence there are number of pupils in secondary schools that are unable to swim. It is not a national curriculum requirement to provide swimming lessons in Secondary Schools, however we believe it is a very important life skill for all young people. There may be an opportunity for your child's school to access funding to support non-swimmers.

In order for us to gain a better understanding of how many Year 7 & 8 pupils that are currently unable to swim across all Hertfordshire Secondary Schools, we would be grateful if you could **complete a short survey if your child cannot swim**.

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

'Anthrobytes' is the Anthropology Podcast put together by sixth form students and Mrs Dallas, in which we discuss all things human in bite-sized portions! In this episode we present the letter 'J' for 'Justice' and ask 'What is the role of anthropologists in seeking justice for studied groups?' In this episode, we consider Bourgois' In Search of Respect, looking at the way that violence and 'street justice' is used in the breakdown of legal institutions, as well as the ethicality of representing delinquent and criminal groups anthropologically. Next, we debated Nancy Scheper-Hughes' concept of 'advocacy anthropology' and whether anthropologists should solely observe, or directly engage with studied groups for the purpose of 'doing some good'.

Please [click here](#) to listen to the podcast.

Missed any episodes? You can [find them here](#).



MUSIC

Music lessons on **Wednesday 1st February will take place online** as the College is closed due to strike action.

Instrumental/vocal teachers will be in contact with students expecting lessons that day to arrange this via Teams.

Online Lesson Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).

Feel free to contact us if you have any queries musicadmin@hockerill.com

Thank you

Mrs Morrow-Plant

Joint Director of Music, Head of Instrumental Studies

HEALTH & WELLBEING

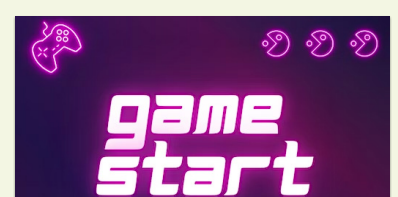
YMCA Trinity - Let's get together

YMCA Trinity are hosting a new free webinar for parents.

Join them for Devices, social media, gaming: How to help your child navigate this world,

8th March from 1900hrs – 2000hrs with an optional 30 minute Q&A session afterwards

Deadline to register – 3rd March. [Click here to register](#)



HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Second hand uniform sale this coming Saturday

In advance of our first second hand uniform sale this coming Saturday, we wanted to let you know that we have an excellent stock of both blazers and trousers. These will be priced at £8 (blazers) and £5 (trousers). We also have a lot of PE kit (shorts and vests) at £5 each and a very limited quantity of rugby tops (£8) and fleeces (£8). If you're in need of anything in particular, please email us at HPF@Hockerill.com with the size you require and we'll do our best to help.



Tesco Community Grants Scheme - cast your vote!

From mid-January you will be able to vote for Hockerill Parents and Friends in Tesco stores in Bishop's Stortford and Stansted. Don't forget to ask for a blue token whenever you buy something - winning projects can be awarded up to £1,500, which would benefit our school enormously!

Thank you.

The HPF Team