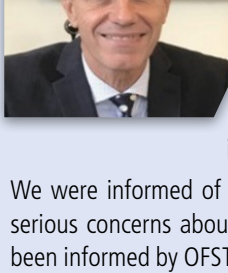


HOCKERILL NEWS



OFSTED Update

As you will be aware the College had an OFSTED inspection of the boarding and school provision in June of last academic year and September of this. Ordinarily the reports would have been published long ago. The reason that our reports have not been published is because we raised concerns through a formal complaint about how the inspection was conducted. Until very recently we have been bound by strict confidentiality rules but now we are able to give you further details on the status of the inspection and its outcomes.

We were informed of the outcomes of the June / September inspection in November of last year but we had serious concerns about the conduct of the inspections and so entered a formal complaint. This week we have been informed by OFSTED that these concerns were justified and that our complaint has been upheld. This means that OFSTED will conduct another inspection later this year. At some point you will therefore be receiving a new request to complete a parent survey. Thank you in advance for your support with this important part of the inspection process.

OFSTED have apologised for the errors made in the inspection process and while the resolution is not ideal, we are pleased that we have an opportunity to have a new inspection. We look forward to welcoming the teams to the College and the inspectors experiencing what our school is so rightly proud of.

David Woods

Principal

Summer 2023 Examination contingency days

The awarding bodies have collectively agreed a contingency day for several years now which is always scheduled at the end of the GCSE, GCE AS and A-level exam timetables.

The contingency day is in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams in the United Kingdom, being part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for exams.

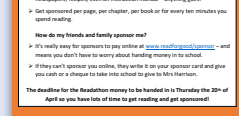
Following the Covid-19 pandemic, further resilience was needed within the exam timetables. A single contingency day was not felt to be sufficient if a national event or incident had a significant effect on the exam timetable. For example, summer exams could be affected by extremely high temperatures.

For the June 2023 exams, the awarding bodies have therefore introduced two additional half-day contingency sessions. These are on **Thursday 8 June 2023** and **Thursday 15 June 2023**. The standard contingency day remains at the end of the timetable being scheduled on **Wednesday 28 June 2023**.

Schools and colleges should ensure candidates and parents are aware of the contingency arrangements on these three days. They should consider the contingency day of Wednesday 28 June 2023 when making their plans for the summer. **Candidates must remain available until Wednesday 28 June 2023 should examinations need to be rescheduled.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 8th February
Early finish for all students
1440hrs (due to 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 recomences
Thursday 23rd February
Early finish for all students
1440hrs (due to Year 7 Student, Parent and Teacher consultations)
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](#)



Read for Good's Readathon

All of our wonderful students at Hockerill have the exciting opportunity to take part in our Readathon this term. It is a fun, sponsored reading activity that raises money towards giving books to children in hospitals and it raises money for extra resources for our library. The students can read whatever they choose – stories, comics, non-fiction, newspapers, recipes, even instruction manuals – as all reading counts in our Readathon!

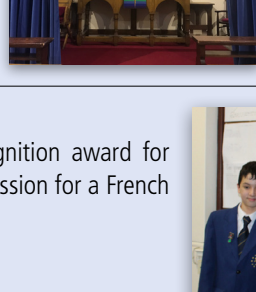
To sponsor a child taking part in the Readathon, you can pay online at www.readforgood.com/sponsor or pay by cash by handing it in to the school for the attention of Mrs Harrison. The deadline for Readathon money to be paid is Thursday 20th of April so there is lots of time to get reading and sponsoring!

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Friday 27th January, the staff and students of the Hockerill Histories club gathered in the Chapel to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We joined people across the country in lighting a candle at 4 o'clock on Holocaust Memorial Day and held a silent vigil at the start of the club.

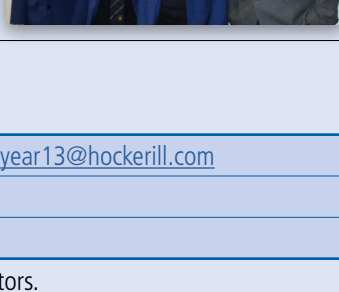
Hockerill Histories aims to learn about the diverse history of the College through the years and to write a series of short performances that will be linked together into a dramatic piece that will take place in a variety of locations across the College

Mr Dinwiddy and Mrs Marsh



Head of Year Recognition Award

Congratulations to 3 students in Year 7 who have received a Head of Year recognition award for creating an outstanding piece of work in French. They created a 10 minute revision session for a French assessment. Well done to Haruto, Felix and George



Communication

Parents are reminded that we have dedicated email addresses to contact your child's Head of Year.

Year 7 – year7@hockerill.com	Year 10 – year10@hockerill.com	Year 13 – year13@hockerill.com
Year 8 – year8@hockerill.com	Year 11 – year11@hockerill.com	
Year 9 – year9@hockerill.com	Year 12 – year12@hockerill.com	

This is a direct email and is the most effective way to contact the Head of Year and associated Administrators.

BOARDING NEWS

Boarding Parents' Forum

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Online Boarding Forum on Wednesday evening, if you were unable to attend and would like to watch the recording, please do so [via the link here](#). The slides that were delivered by Sandra Oakes and Paul Reed from Holroyd Howe can be [found here](#).

Boarding Parents' Meal

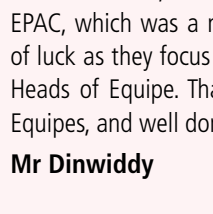
There is an opportunity for parents of Boarders to come to College to see our catering offering on Saturday 25th February. If you would like to come in and trial the food, please [complete the Form via the link here](#). The Form will close at 09:00 on Friday 10th February.

Head of Roding House – Mrs Bailey

Please see message below from Mrs Bailey. Mrs Bailey will be joining the College as Head of Roding House after Easter.

I will be joining Hockerill after Easter and I am looking forward to taking up the position of Head of Roding House. As a teacher with 26 years of experience, I am keen to play an active role in the life of the College. I join from Stoke College where I am currently Head of Boarding and Head of Geography. Having previously worked in both the state and independent sector where I have experience of being both a Head of Year and also Head of Department. Although, recently my teaching has focussed on Geography at GCSE and A level I have also taught GCSE English and RE. As a Mental Health First Aider and a Safeguarding Lead, I am well aware of the challenges faced by young people and have experience of supporting students in all aspects of their school life. I am looking forward to the opportunity to lead the Senior Girls Boarding House and will be encouraging those in my care to challenge themselves, push themselves out of their comfort zone and make the most of all the opportunities on offer to them at Hockerill.

EQUIPE NEWS

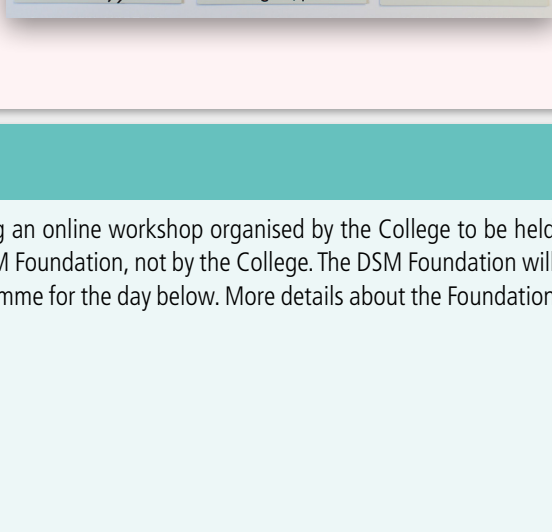


Heads of Equipe Annual Dinner

The current Year 13 Heads and Deputy Heads of Equipe had their final formal engagement on Friday 27th January: The Heads of Equipe Annual Dinner, in the Menet Room. The eight students were joined by the Principal; Head of Equipes, Mr Dinwiddy; and their Head of Year, Mr Hay. The Refectory staff had pulled out all the stops with the catering and we were treated to a table of perfectly cooked medium-rare fillet steaks with all the trimmings. We could not have asked for a better spread anywhere in Bishop's Stortford! The evening's entertainments were completed with the kind loan of Roding's karaoke machine as staff and students belted out ABBA, Queen, The Beatles, and more.

The eight students have worked so hard to lead their respective Equipes over the last 12 months, running competitions and assemblies, as well as organising the EPAC, which was a monumental undertaking for them. I wish them all the best of luck as they focus on their examinations and we begin the search for the next Heads of Equipe. Thank you, all of you, for everything you have done for your Equipes, and well done!

Mr Dinwiddy



GENERAL NEWS

Please see letter below from the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation (DSM) regarding an online workshop organised by the College to be held on Monday 6th March for parents. The event on the evening will be managed by DSM Foundation, not by the College. The DSM Foundation will also presenting to students in Year 9-13 on Wednesday 8th March Please see programme for the day below. More details about the Foundation [can be found here](#).

Wednesday 8th March (Week A)		
Period	Time	Year Group
2	1020-1120	Year 9
3	1140-1240	Year 10
4	1340-1440	Year 11
5	1445-1540	Year 12 and 13

Parent Letter

I Wish I'd Known – a workshop for parents and carers on young people, drugs and decisions from the DSM Foundation

We would like to invite you to a drug and alcohol awareness workshop by webinar for parents and carers delivered by drug education charity the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. This will be held on Monday 6th March at 7.00-8.30pm and led by Fiona Spargo-Mabbs and Asha Fowells.

The world for young people is a very different place than it was for their parents, including in their vulnerability to risk from drugs and alcohol, and this workshop provides a great opportunity for you as a parent or carer to become more aware of what issues face your children, and what you can do to help them stay safe.

The workshop will involve finding out about:

- levels of young people's exposure to drugs and alcohol – what, where, when and how
- what young people, and their parents and carers, need to know about the risks of drugs and alcohol
- factors that affect young people's decisions about drugs and alcohol, including teenage brain development
- how to have effective conversations with your child, and practical suggestions for what you can do to support them to stay safe
- where to go for more information and support.

The DSM Foundation was set up by Fiona and Tim Spargo-Mabbs in 2014 after the tragic death of their 16-year-old son Daniel as a result of taking ecstasy (www.dsmfoundation.org.uk). The aim of the charity is to support young people to make safe choices about drugs, and they work with students, teachers, parents/carers and professionals in schools, colleges and community organisations across the UK.

Fiona has become a leading UK expert on drug education, including how parents can best support their children. She has spoken to parents and carers across the UK and internationally and is regularly asked to speak by the media. She is author of two books for parents, 'I Wish I'd Known – Young People, Drugs and Decisions' (Sheldon Press, 2021) and 'Talking the Tough Stuff with Teens' (Sheldon Press, 2022).

Please [click this link](#) to register for the event:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from the Foundation containing information about joining the webinar.

SEND National Crisis Hertfordshire survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather data on and understand the experiences of families and professionals within Hertfordshire regarding the lack of SEN officers or EHCP coordinators over the last 6 months (since July 2022). We plan to use this information to raise our concerns with Hertfordshire LA about the ongoing issues this is causing in an attempt to effect change for Hertfordshire families and professionals.

This survey is open to parent/carers and professionals in Hertfordshire who have been impacted by the lack of SEN officers or EHCP coordinators within the Local Authority over the last 6 months.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey.

LIBRARY NEWS

Bookbuzz and Bookbuzz Challenge

Year 7 students have now reviewed their Bookbuzz books, and if the reviews are anything to go by, it seems they generally made excellent personal selections. It is great to know what they think of the books gifted to them by the College Library, as part of this Reading for Pleasure initiative. Those who submitted evidence of having taken part in the Bookbuzz Challenge activities, will receive a prize during their upcoming library lessons.



Juniper Book Awards 2023

The book award shadowing is well underway, and I am most grateful to this year's Staff Champions, representing many areas of the College, for also volunteering to read one of the books. They are: Mr Woods – Principal, Mr Parsons – Science teacher; Mrs Owen – Science technician; Mrs Hardiman – Teaching Assistant; Mrs Butler – Admin team; Mrs Sumson – Admin team. Watch out for more updates on the Juniper Books Awards later in the term, but in the meantime, here are the Champions (and their pets!) enjoying a great read in a variety of settings.

Mrs Bruce

College Librarian



MUSIC

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, please get in touch to enable us to address the situation.

If you wish to stop having lessons at any point, you must let us know in writing by the dates listed below.

Want to Stop Lessons at:	Deadline to let us know by:
End of Lent Term 2023	Friday 3 February 2023
May Half Term 2023	Friday 24 March 2023
End of Academic Year 2023	Friday 19 May 2023

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.

Please contact us at musicadmin@hockerill.com if you have any queries.

Mrs Morrow-Plant

Joint Director of Music, Head of Instrumental Studies

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Talking Additional Needs

Talking Additional Needs course which is running on the following dates is now online and places are available FREE to parents and carers throughout the county. Click on the poster for further details.

Wednesdays: 22nd February, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March. 0945hrs to 1115hrs



Family Lives

Family Lives are delivering the below ONLINE parenting group, funded by Herts County Council, in the Spring term for targeted parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire or who have a child attending a Hertfordshire school.

Time to Talk about Pre-Teens / Teens (6 weeks) – Online (6 weeks)

Tuesday 21st February to 28th March

0930hrs – 1130hrs

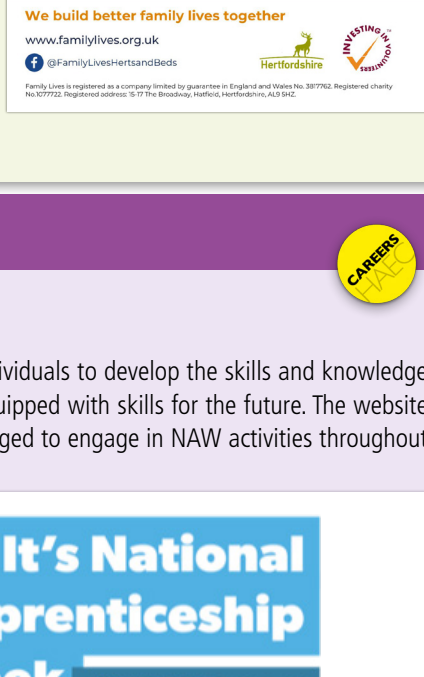
Ms Teams

This group is particularly suited for parents and or carers of pre-teen/teenagers who may have a FFA, CIN, CP or Youth Justice Plan and are showing signs of:

- * Risky behaviour online through social media
- * Attraction to or involvement in gangs
- * Alcohol and/or drugs, early sex, self-harming, crime and anti-social behaviour, aggressive and challenging behaviour

We accept referrals from professionals as well as self-referrals. Please click here [referral form](#) for the online referral form.

You can also email services@familylives.org.uk or call us on 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8701 for more information.



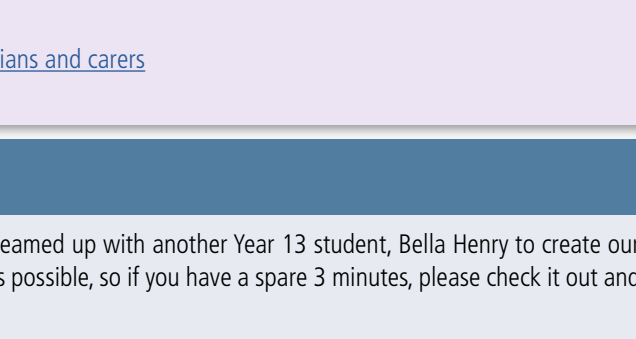
CAREERS

National Apprenticeship Week: 6th – 12th of February 2023

Official Website: <https://naw.appawards.co.uk/>

The theme this year is 'Skills for Life'. The week will reflect on how apprenticeship can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career and help businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with skills for the future. The website contains a listing of online and in-person events and the community at Hockerill will be encouraged to engage in NAW activities throughout the week.

Topic rapid-read
[What is an apprenticeship?](#)
[What is a degree apprenticeship?](#)
[Apprenticeship levels explained](#)
[What are Traineeships?](#)
[Higher Degree Listing February for Y13 2023](#)



Letters for students and parents about apprenticeships from Minister Halton
[Open the letter to students](#)
[Open the letter to parents, guardians and carers](#)

STUDENT NEWS

I'm Ralph Halkett, a Year 13 Hockerill student and music producer. I have teamed up with another Year 13 student, Bella Henry to create our song. It is my fifth official song release and we would love to get it as big as possible, so if you have a spare 3 minutes, please check it out and if you enjoy it, feel free to share it. Thank you, Ralph.

[Spotify Link](#)
[Apple Music Link](#)

