

HOCKERILL NEWS



Welcome to the second half of the academic year after what we hope was a restful half-term break. The last half-term ended with another visit from OFSTED which we hope will finally bring to an end a very protracted process. The timeline from now is that we should receive draft outcomes in the next 3 weeks which we have an opportunity to respond to and then final reports should be published. All being well this will be around the end of term. Thank you for your help with the inspection. The parental input was significant and the overwhelmingly positive feedback was remarked upon by the inspection team.

In parallel to inspections OFSTED also issue annual 'Point in time' (PIT) surveys. By coincidence these have now been sent out and we have been asked to send them to the College boarding community for completion by March 26th. OFSTED appreciates that to some extent there will be repetition of the surveys that you completed for the inspection but still ask that you complete the PIT survey so that the trends year on year can be seen. The links are given below, and we thank you in advance for once again taking the time to support the College by completing the survey.

Ofsted Surveys 2023 - For parents of children who are boarding students

Ofsted would like to hear your views about the establishment.

Here is [the link](#) to an anonymous online survey. It should take you just a few minutes to complete:

This survey is open until 26 March 2023.

If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Ofsted at: socialcarepitsurvey@ofsted.gov.uk or calling 0300 123 1231.

Thank you from Ofsted.

IMPORTANT DATES

Contact us:

Wednesday 1st March
Industrial action (further details below)

Thursday 2nd March
Enrichment day (further details below)

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](#)

Industrial action affecting schools on Wednesday 1st March 2023

As you may be aware the teaching union NEU have scheduled their next day of industrial action on Wednesday 1st March. This will be the second of three days of strike action because of a national dispute with the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at the College.

As with the first day of action we have taken the decision that the College will be closed to all students on Wednesday March 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 while flexi boarders may attend, 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 a 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'. Any student in Y10 to 13 whose teacher is involved in the industrial action should undertake revision in preparation for the practice or real examinations that they will have in the next few months. Any student due to have an instrumental music lesson on March 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

Dunmow Road Car Park

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. If the issues in the car park continue, we will have no choice but to close the gates to vehicles at the end of the College day.

We also politely request that parents who 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 or dangerous manner.

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

Enrichment day – Thursday 2nd March

All students will be off timetable to take part in various activities. Year 7 will be continuing with their interdisciplinary unit in STEM on flight and codes. Year 12 will be looking at next steps with the focus on careers and university process. The rest of the College will be exploring themes of Kindness.

Year 7	Duxford imperial War Museum Please refer to letter from Miss Dickson. Students are to wear normal full school uniform and bring a coat. Duxford is a very exposed site and can be cold. Students will need to bring a packed lunch, boarder will be provided with a lunch
Year 8	First aid training and awareness Please refer to letter sent by Miss Bell
Year 9	Community Project Students will be continuing raising awareness about their chosen issue
Year 10	Disability awareness Please refer to letter from Mrs Geissler Students should come into school in their PE kit
Year 11	Revision strategies and kindness to self. Stress busting techniques in preparation for GCSE exams
Year 12	Careers and future aspirations
Year 13	Revision strategies and kindness to self. Stress busting techniques in preparation for IB exams

REMINDER - Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation (DSM)

A reminder of the event below for student and parents which was previously shared in the Hub on Friday 3rd February.

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 present 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 1900hrs - 2030hrs** 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.

Hockerill Histories

As part of the Hockerill Histories club, students and staff have been researching the events of 10th-11th October 1940 when three bombs fell on Hockerill. St Alban's House was severely damaged, later demolished, and Menet House was destroyed, killing three girls: trainee teachers Evelyn Joyce Carnell (18) and Evelyn Joan Drake (19), and evacuee Edith Grace Zender (18). Joyce Carnell is buried at Ash, Kent, and I visited her grave over the half term and laid a wreath in her memory on behalf of the College. The note read: "from the staff, students, and trainee teachers of Hockerill. You are not forgotten at what was your home for too short a time."

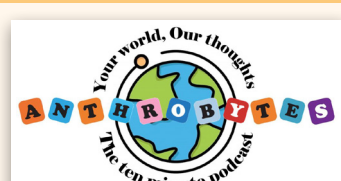
Mr G Dinwiddy



SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

'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 'I' and ask what does language mean to us, and why are they worth preserving? We firstly began with Kulik's A Death in the Rainforest, considering ways that indigenous languages may be lost through cultural change as traditional speakers turn towards more widely-spoken and 'modern' alternatives; however, we also looked into how cultural contact can lead to the creation of new pidgin and creole languages, as well as issues of legitimacy surrounding them. Lastly, we looked at the use of languages as lingua francas and how the speaking of language is embedded in hierarchies of power. [Click here for this episode.](#)

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



GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Year 9 Geography Fieldtrip to the Town centre

Year 9 students have been learning about globalisation in their Geography lessons and as part of our curriculum of fieldwork are visiting the town centre to investigate whether the town is a 'home' town or a 'clone' town. Students took various surveys including pedestrian and traffic counts, mapped land use, rated environmental quality and asked members of the public about their view. Students are taking part during their Geography lesson with some having already gone out and the rest will be going out next week. Once back in the classroom they will analyse their data and write up their findings.



LIBRARY NEWS

Juniper Book Awards 2023 First Online Author Events

We have been so lucky to welcome two of this year's Juniper Book Awards shortlisted authors to present online events to our Year 7 English groups. These took place during their Library lessons and both groups thoroughly enjoyed these engaging sessions, especially the audience participation and the opportunity to ask some fabulous questions. The feedback about our students from both Stewart Foster, an experienced, award-winning author, and Simon Fox, who was making his debut presentation as a children's author, was amazing. Stewart Foster messaged me to say: "I was going to write stacks. . . , but truthfully, it's simple to say: you and your students restored my faith in what I am trying to do. You were all amazing!" We have further events planned, so that all Year 7 students will eventually have the opportunity to engage with the author who wrote the book they are shadowing.

Mrs S Bruce

College Librarian



MUSIC NEWS

Soloist Concert

Tues 7th March 1600hrs – Chapel

To come and watch, you must complete [this form](#) by Mon 6th March 1700hrs. Parents of students who have signed up to perform will be contacted directly in due course. This is a free event – we look forward to seeing you there!

Tickets on sale NOW

Hockerill at Ronnie Scott's- An evening of jazz

Weds 15th March – 1900hrs – St Albans Hall

Under the direction of the award winning Charlie Bates, the Hockerill College Big Band present an evening of jazz. Supported by the Junior and Senior Jazz Ensembles with a professional House Band and featured soloists, this promises to be an event not to be missed! As well as high calibre performances, your ticket will include table seating and snacks. With drinks available at the bar run by the amazing HPF, excellent company and fine music, it will be just like a night at Ronnie's.

If your child is performing, you should have received a letter via email – please use the email address below to book your table seating.

£15 per person – in tables from 2 up to 6 people.

After purchasing your tickets, please email HPF@hockerill.com to arrange your table seating.

Tickets on sale NOW



Hockerill at the Movies – Spring Concert

Tues 28th March – 1900hrs – St Albans Hall

Lights, Camera ACTION! Our first ever themed Spring Concert, Hockerill at the Movies is here. With music from Iron Man, James Bond, Frozen, Star Wars, How to Train Your Dragon, Raiders of the Lost Ark; there's something for everyone.

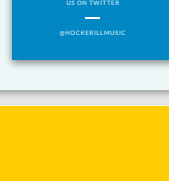
This concert features all extra-curricular music ensembles – a whopping 250 students are performing either as musicians or as part of the stage team. Orchestra, Big Band, Choirs, String Ensembles and many more.

Tickets: £10-Adults and £8-Concessions. This is a one night only event so tickets will sell quickly!

Refreshments available at the bar.



Watch this space – we are working on an exciting recording project showcasing the College Big Band, Senior String Ensemble and College Choir. Giving students the opportunity to gain studio experience at a professional level and experience what it is like to record music. All parents of students involved will have received an email with more detail – we are really looking forward to this project.



GENERAL NEWS

Student Rail Cards - Reducing your child's traveling cost.

Costs can be reduced by as much as 50% on termly and academic year season tickets for 16-19 Year olds.

[For more information click this link](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



First Steps Eating Disorder Charity

Free workshops available to parents - click on the flyer for more information

HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

250 Club Grants

We're delighted to announce that £450 has been awarded to the English Department for the Juniper book-shadowing awards and £1,125 to the DT department for a new spraying booth.

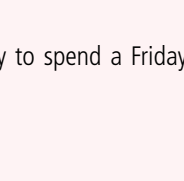
We will have a further £2000 to give away later on in the school year, so please apply if there is something your club/group/department needs. Even if it's a larger project, we can always help to fund part of it or help kickstart an idea.

We want every penny we raise to go back into the school for YOUR benefit.

250 Club

We have a new easy sign-up option. Scan the QR code below and you can fill in your details to join.

Congratulations to January's £100 winner, Clare Harper.



Comedy Night

Don't forget to buy your tickets with the early bird discount of £15. It'll be a GREAT way to spend a Friday evening!