

Dear Parents



Welcome to our new weekly newsletter - The Hockerill Hub. This will be where we collate together all the information that has previously been sent to you in separate emails from members of staff across the College. We hope this will make things easier for you to track what is relevant to you and your child(ren) by having it in one place. The newsletter will go out on a Friday with all of the key information for the week ahead. It will therefore be an essential point of reference and taking the time to read it will be important. Your feedback on this innovation is welcome so please do help us refine how we present and organise the information so that it works as efficiently as possible.

My first week at Hockerill has been filled with meeting students and staff plus getting familiar with the layout of the campus. The welcome that I have received from everyone has been really positive and is helping me to understand how the College functions. In my newsletter before the start of term I mentioned that I want to dedicate much of my time to learning everything I can about the College from as many perspectives as possible. I am therefore reaching out to as many members of the school community as I can – staff, students, parents, alumni, former staff, friends and supporters – to say hello and to open a conversation. Since you have more experience and knowledge about the College than I currently do, I hope you will share your reflections and advice with me. Imagine you are the new Principal and thinking ahead to the world our students are likely to live in well into the 22nd century: What are the aspects of Hockerill you think deserve particular attention? What are the things that most carefully need to be preserved? And what do we need to change to enable us to fulfil our mission? Please write to me anytime you feel inspired to do so. I promise to read each of the replies and to learn from you.

Covid-19

As you may be aware one local school has had its first case of Covid-19 and cases in Hertfordshire are rising. It would be naive to assume that the Hockerill community will not be affected at some point and so we are preparing for that eventuality. We shared with you our Back to School document [here](#) before the start of term and we have been fully implementing this thus far. In the event of a positive case we will be guided by Public Health England (PHE) and will advise you accordingly. Should individual year groups or the whole school be required to self-isolate then learning will return to being on-line. It is very important that if anyone in your household has Covid symptoms that you follow the [government guidance](#), inform the School Office that a test result is pending, and self-isolate. Thank you for your assistance in reinforcing the message with students about taking responsibility for their health and well-being through good hygiene practices and observing social distance. By doing so we will all remain safe and well.

We wish you an excellent, well informed and healthy week ahead.

David Woods
Principal

GENERAL NOTICES

IMPORTANT: Please could parents read the instructions in this [government guidance](#) which details what needs to be done if anyone in your household has Covid-19 symptoms. Please inform the school of a suspected or confirmed case as soon as possible on 01279 658451. Please could we ask for a brief description of the nature of the absence, the name of the student and the exact date and time of the absence. Any other absences are to be reported to school by 8.30 am on each day of the absence of the student via absence@hockerill.com

Please be aware that Michaelmas Term Clubs are currently postponed. These will commence on Monday 21st September.

BOARDING NOTICES

Dear Parents,

It has been an absolute pleasure to have all of the students return last week and it has been great to see the students adapt to the new measures that have been put in place to ensure their safety. Please see important information below.

Masks

It has been noted that a number of students have been using disposable masks. Due to the single-use nature of these masks and the negative environmental impacts, the College has purchased a stock of reusable and washable masks which each House will have a stock of within House Offices. The masks will cost £1 and this amount will be charged to your child's boarding account should they request or need a mask.

Mealtimes

Holroyd Howe will be writing to parents early next week to update you regarding changes to catering. There will be a meeting held early next week with representatives from each House to discuss the menu and for Holroyd Howe to receive feedback on their current provision. Please be assured that I am working closely with Holroyd Howe to ensure that the food at the College is as good as it possibly can be.

Boarding Parents Forum

The usual Boarding Parents Forum that is currently scheduled for Friday 16th October will not be a live event and will be held online instead. This meeting will be brought forward and I will confirm the date and time with parents next week via the Hockerill Hub.

Breakfast

If it is more convenient for Flexi Boarders to arrive at College later than the current designated time for breakfast. Eating food will still be possible in the refectory, your child will just have to ensure that they are socially distancing from other Houses and staff and will need to sit within the designated area for staff in the refectory.

Self-Isolation Form

A reminder that the Microsoft Form in the link below needs to be completed by all parents of residential boarders please.

<https://tinyurl.com/hockerillselfisolation>

Covid Testing

You may be aware that there is currently a national shortage of Covid-19 antigen test kits in the UK. Individuals are currently being directed hundreds of miles away to the nearest test centre with testing capacity. The shortage also applies to home testing kits which we are currently unable to order. As a residential education setting it is important that the College is able to quickly test when a case of Covid-19 is suspected in order to avoid quarantining large numbers of boarders unnecessarily. As such, the College has purchased a limited supply of Covid-19 rapid antibody testing kits, as approved by the BSA (Boarding Schools' Association). These kits are single use and cost £30 each. They will be used only where there is a clinical indication due to presence of symptoms of Covid-19 (as determined by the College Nurse, following government guidance). A result is given in 15 minutes. Where it is necessary for the College Nurses to use one of these test kits to test a boarder, the £30 cost will be charged to their boarding account. Unless we hear from you to the contrary (by Friday 18th September), we will assume that you agree to this.

Exeat Weekend 19-20 September

Please be aware that there will be two boarding Houses open for the upcoming exeat, the two senior Houses (Thames and Roding), which is the normal procedure for exeats. Any junior students who will stay in College over the weekend will reside in the senior houses and social distancing will be enforced by the members of staff on duty. There will be enhanced cleaning of rooms being used by other 'bubbles' after College on Friday and before the students return on Sunday.

October Half Term

The College will not be remaining open during October Half Term (Saturday 17th October - Saturday 31st October). Houses will reopen on Sunday 1st November as per the Term Dates 2020-2021 document which can be found on the College website.

Will Conolly

Director of Boarding

YEAR 7



I would like to inform you of an exciting opportunity for your child in the coming weeks. For the last seven years I have run Hockerill BMX Racing club at the track in Braintree with ex-national champion coach Jools Allen. Due to current restrictions, we are only able to run the club with a limited number of students from the same year group.

I would therefore like to resume the club on Wednesday, 23rd September with twelve Year 7 students. It will initially run for four weeks before breaking for winter and resuming at Easter.

The dates are as follows:

1. 23rd September
2. 30th September
3. 7th October
4. 14th October

We will meet at the minibus promptly at 15:45h and return to College by 1800hrs after a full hour's riding. Boarders will need to arrange dinner with their boarding tutors, who will be informed of their participation.

The total price will be £44 for the four hour-long sessions and includes minibus transport to Braintree, hire of bikes and full-face helmets, which will all be thoroughly cleaned before our arrival. The club has been set up on WisePay, reference BMX Racing Club Michaelmas 2020. Please may I ask that payment is made by Wednesday 14th September, 1500hrs and that permission is given via this Microsoft Form. The club is open to female and male riders who will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis and not on ability.

The students need to wear trainers, long-sleeved tops, long-legged bottoms (preferably not baggy) and gloves for protection, which due to Covid19, are no longer provided. We hold the right to refuse participation if these conditions are not met. The students should also bring a drink and a snack to eat at the track.

Should you have any further queries, please e-mail me directly on russella@hockerill.com

Andy Russell

YEAR 10

As you may already be aware, the students in Year 10 are starting their GCSEs for English this year. Due to the important nature of this course, we will be providing students with a variety of resources to ensure that our students are fully supported in this specification. These resources include the use of an online text book for the English Language course that students will be able to access online, extra revision materials and helpful resources on TEAMS.

[Here is a link](#) to the GCSE English Parent Handbook for the GCSE course, which will hopefully provide further clarification for any initial questions that you may have.

All students will also be provided with copies of the set texts, however, they also have the option of purchasing a copy of the set texts from the College at a discounted rate if they so wish. The benefit of this is that students will be able to highlight and annotate the text to support their preparation for the final exams.

If you would like to purchase the texts needed for the GCSE Literature course at a cost of £17.00, this includes An Inspector Calls, Jekyll and Hyde or A Christmas Carol and Macbeth, then please complete on WisePay by Friday September 18th.

If you have any further questions regarding the texts studied, please do contact either myself or your child's English teacher.

Emily Fontain

Second in English