

## BOARDING NEWS

### Early Departure - International Boarders

I am sure you will have received the letter I sent to parents on Tuesday 24th November, please follow the process stated within the letter regarding gaining permission for absence via your child's Head of Year. If you will be requesting or if you have already requested that your child departs early can I also ask you to complete the Microsoft Form via the link below so that teaching staff can be informed. Please complete the Form by 17:00 on Tuesday 1st December. <https://tinyurl.com/christmasearlydeparture>

### Quarantine

A reminder to parents of International Boarders that if you need your child to quarantine at College after Christmas, please complete the Microsoft Form via the link below. The Form will shut at 17:00 (UK time) on Friday 4th December to allow staff time to plan. There will be no option to quarantine if you do not complete this form by this date. If travel arrangements change once the deadline has passed please can you contact your child's Head of House. <https://tinyurl.com/quarantinepostchristmas>

### New Full Boarders

In replacement of Full Boarders Open Weekend, I wanted to provide the opportunity for parents of Full Boarders who are either new to the College or new to their Boarding House to meet with their child's Head of House to receive some feedback.

Please see the date outlined in the table below when Heads of House are available to meet with parents online via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to book an appointment to meet with your child's Head of House, please book this meeting via Mrs Lindley ([lindleyj@hockerill.com](mailto:lindleyj@hockerill.com)) offering a few times you are available on the stated date. Please could all bookings be requested by 14:00 on Tuesday 1st December.

House	Staff Member	Date Available
Canterbury	Mrs Coleman	Wednesday 2nd December
Durham	Mrs Faiers	Thursday 3rd December
Rochester	Ms Brown	Thursday 3rd December
Roding	Mrs Davids	Thursday 3rd December
Thames	Mr Jones	Wednesday 2nd December
Winchester	Mrs Corrigan	Thursday 3rd December

### Signing Out Off Campus

Whilst England's National Restrictions end on Wednesday 2nd December, the decision has been made that signing out off campus for the remainder of this term will continue to be suspended, unless permission has been received from a Head of House. We have a large number of boarders who want to travel abroad to spend time with their families over Christmas and I feel we have a responsibility as a community to minimise the risk of transmission as we approach the end of term. Christmas celebrations and onsite activities will be organised in the lead up to the Christmas break to keep the boarders occupied.

### Operation Christmas Cheer

The boarding community will be involved in organising and packing of shoeboxes to give to local elderly people for Christmas. There will be a drop off point by the College reception for anybody who would like to donate items to this cause. Please see further details within the news article here. Items can include sweets, chocolates, stationery, books, crossword and/or sudoku compilations, socks, handkerchiefs, gloves, scarves, toiletries, candles and anything else you think they may enjoy. Please could these items be brought to reception by 1300hrs on Wednesday 2nd December to allow the items to be quarantined before they are packed.

### Parent Forum

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Boarding Parent Forum on the evening of Tuesday 24th November, if you were unable to attend and would like to view the meeting, please do so via the link. <https://vimeo.com/483626992>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PREFECT LEADERSHIP TEAM

**As the new Senior Prefect Leadership Team we wanted to try and help support our local community this Christmas. We came up with the idea of a reverse advent calendar.**

The way that would work is on the days leading up to the end of term, two students from each form (one for sixth form groups) per day would bring in a few items (see list below) and at the end of Hockerill's mini advent, we will donate these items to the Bishop's Stortford food bank.

Each form will receive a sign-up sheet where the child will be allocated a day. We would be very grateful if you could remind your children on this day to bring in an item of food.

The advent calendar will start on the Monday 30th November and last until the Tuesday 8th December. We will ask someone from each form to bring all the items their form has collected to the Refectory, where they will leave on a table and return to their form, avoiding the mixture of bubbles. Due to the current lockdown in England, we understand that boarders cannot leave the boarding houses to potentially get an item to donate. If all goes accordingly and the lockdown is extended, we hope the form tutors can arrange accordingly so that they can bring in their items in the last week of term. However, if this is still difficult a couple of pounds or spare change would be appreciated.

Suitable food that can be donated includes:

- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned tomato/ pasta sauce
- Lentils, beans and pulses
- Tinned meat/ vegetables
- Tea/coffee
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- UHT milk
- Fruit juice

The Bishop's Stortford food bank also says they need certain non-food items such as: toiletries (deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shampoo, soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, hand wipes), household items (laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid), feminine products (sanitary towels and tampons), baby supplies (nappies, baby wipes and baby food).

Once again thank you for any help you give, and we hope everyone has a good Christmas.

**Senior Prefect Leadership Team**



## IT UPDATE

### SIMS Parent app

It is important that we have up-to-date contact information for all students to ensure that we meet our safeguarding obligations, should there be an emergency. Please could parents check that the SIMS Parent app is updated with current addresses and telephone numbers.

### SIMS InTouch

Please be reminded that when responding to SIMS InTouch messages these replies go to an unmonitored inbox so you may not receive an immediate response. If you are sending an email to a member of staff, please email [admin@hockerill.com](mailto:admin@hockerill.com) so we can forward your message on.

### Portable Appliance Testing – Laptop chargers

Please be reminded, if students are using their laptop chargers in College these should be PAT tested to ensure they are safe to use. The maintenance staff will be holding clinics every week when students can bring their charger to be tested. Students can go to the maintenance office on the following days between 0800 and 0845hrs:

**Wednesday** – Lower College (Years 7, 8 and 9)

**Thursday** – Upper College and Sixth Form (Years 10 – 13)

(Residential boarding students will have their devices PAT tested in the boarding house.)

## MINDED FOR FAMILIES

**Are you a parent or carer who is concerned about the mental health of your child or teenager?**

Do you just want some hints and tips on parenting? MindEd for Families is a free learning resource with advice and information from trusted experts to help you to understand what problems occur, what you can do to support your family and how to take care of yourself. Please follow the link for further information - <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/>



## INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL LESSON NOTICE DEADLINES

**We hope that your children enjoy and look forward to their music lessons. If for any reason they are not enjoying their lessons, please let us know so that we can address the situation.**

Please be aware that if you would like to stop lessons at any point, you must let us know in writing. The table below gives the notice deadlines for the rest of this year:

Want to Stop Lessons at:	Deadline to let us know by:
Lent - end of first half of term 2021 (February)	Friday 04 December 2020
End of Lent Term 2021 (March)	Friday 5 February 2021
Summer - end of first half of term 2021 (May)	Friday 12 March 2021
End of Academic Year 2021 (July)	Friday 21 May 2021

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](mailto:musicadmin@hockerill.com) if you have any queries.

**Mr O Bond**

## HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

### Merchandise

If you are stuck for stocking fillers, have a peek at Hockerill's NEW range of branded bobble hats, hoodies, 'Varsity-style' T-shirts and small gifts (pens, stress balls, mugs, teddies, coffee cups, water bottles). Click <https://www.hockerill.com/92/hockerill-parents-friends/>

Clothes are available to order online via Fosters

<https://www.fostersschoolwear.co.uk/school-products/hockerill-parents-friends/>

and smaller items by emailing [HPF@Hockerill.com](mailto:HPF@Hockerill.com). Let us know what you want and we'll arrange payment and delivery.

### HPF Virtual Balloon Race

The race begins on December 5th at midday and you could win £100.

At the last count over 120 balloons were ready and waiting to take off, so we should be in for a good race!

Go to <https://www.balloonrace.com/HPF> to buy your Balloons now.

Thank you, as always, for your support.



## COLLEGE EVENTS

## I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas

### Equipe Christmas Tree Bauble and Decoration Competition Years 7, 8 & 9

Mrs Mackenzie needs her Christmas tree in H2 decorated! Make a sustainable bauble or decoration from recycled materials that can be hung from the tree. Equipe Points and prizes to be won.

**The categories are:**

- Most sustainable decoration (best use of recycled materials)
- Most festive decoration

**Don't forget to put your name and form group on it!**

**10 Points per entry and 50 points for the winner of each category.**

**Mrs Mackenzie and her elves will come to your form on Monday 30th November to collect your entries.**

## DEC 11TH WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TO COLLEGE

The money raised from wearing Christmas Jumpers on Friday 11th December will be divided equally between the following 4 charities