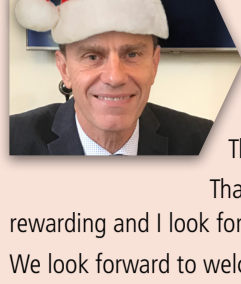


>IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



The Christmas break has finally arrived after the most unusual of terms. The pandemic has been the backdrop to every moment of our lives and the College community had had to adapt accordingly. Thankfully, we have come through it relatively smoothly and apart from the necessary changes to routine and organisation, learning is where it should be and students are on track. There is no room for complacency however as, though we are in a new phase of Covid, it is no more than the beginning of the end rather than the end. The discipline around hygiene and social distancing will need to be just as strictly observed next term if we are to get through to the summer term without significant disruption. Thank you in advance for your support with this by reinforcing the key messages with your children.

Thank you for your support and feedback through this term, my first at Hockerill. It has been challenging but very rewarding and I look forward to being able to meet more of the parent community in person at some point next year.

We look forward to welcoming students back to lessons on Tuesday 5th January.

Best wishes for the festive season and a healthy, happy 2021.

David Woods

Principal

>COVID-19

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.

During the holidays you should email admin@hockerill.com - this will only be monitored until Christmas Eve as after this point your child(ren) shouldn't be a close contact of anyone at the College.

Remember, as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have Covid-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of Covid-19
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for Covid-19
- they haven't completed the full 14-day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read a helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by Covid-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

>NEWS

Sunday Times Schools Guide 2021

The Sunday Times names the top 500 schools in the country and Hockerill College is ranked joint 41st. See the **Sunday Times** or the **Bishop's**

Stortford Independent for further details

Strategic Plan update 2020

The College's Strategic Plan has been updated and can be viewed [here](#)

Form Groups

Please see below the updated Form Groups and room list for the Lent Term.

TUTOR GROUPS AND ROOMS 2020-2021- From January 2021											
The Lower College				The Upper College				The Sixth Form			
Head of Lower College: Mr A Whiteley				Head of Year 10: Mrs N Ashlie-McCree				Head of Sixth Form: Mr P Broadfield Assistant Head of Sixth Form: Mrs S Spencer			
Head of Year 7: Mr A Whiteley				Head of Year 11: Mrs A Humphreys				Head of Year 12: Mrs E Clements			
House 1: Mrs A. Hadden & Mr S. Scadd				House 1: Mrs C. Southwood & Mrs C. Boyd				House 1: Mrs J. Lang			
Da Vinci: Mr A. Richard & Mrs A. Green				Da Vinci: Mrs M. Mammone & Mr A. Stuart				Da Vinci 1: Mr C. Ashburn			
Goethe: Mr P. Higgins & Mrs S. Mangan				Goethe: Mr D. Burrell & Mrs J. Perry				Da Vinci 2: Mr C. Ashburn			
Roosevelt: Mrs S. Burrell & Mrs S. Burrell				Roosevelt: Mrs S. Burrell & Mrs S. Burrell				Da Vinci 3: Mr C. Ashburn			
Head of Year 8: Mrs A. Gossler				Head of Year 12: Mrs E. Clements				House 2: Mrs J. Lang			
House 1: Mrs A. Gossler & Mr C. Gossler				House 1: Mrs C. Southwood & Mrs C. Boyd				Da Vinci 1: Mr C. Ashburn			
Da Vinci: Mrs M. Lumb & Mr N. Hadden				Da Vinci: Mrs S. Dumortier & Mr A. Russell				Goethe 1: Mrs M. Lumb			
Goethe: Mrs K. Lumb & Mr M. Orlando				Goethe: Mr J. George & Mrs E. Wilson				Roosevelt 1: Mr C. Ashburn			
Roosevelt: Mrs M. Butler & Mr M. Gallagher				Roosevelt: Mrs C. Burrell & Mrs E. Burrell				Da Vinci 2: Mr C. Ashburn			
Head of Year 9: Mrs F. Whiteley				Head of Year 13: Mrs S. Spencer				House 3: Mrs M. Lumb			
House 1: Mr G. Duggan & Mrs C. Duggan				House 1: Mrs C. Southwood & Mrs C. Boyd				Da Vinci 1: Mr C. Ashburn			
Da Vinci: Mr G. Duggan & Mrs C. Duggan				Da Vinci: Mrs S. Dumortier & Mr A. Russell				Goethe 1: Mrs M. Lumb			
Goethe: Mr G. Duggan & Mrs C. Duggan				Goethe: Mr J. George & Mrs E. Wilson				Roosevelt 1: Mr C. Ashburn			
Roosevelt: Mrs S. Burrell & Mrs E. Burrell				Roosevelt: Mrs C. Burrell & Mrs E. Burrell				Da Vinci 2: Mr C. Ashburn			
Heads of Equipes:				Heads of Equipes:				Heads of Equipes:			
Da Vinci: Mr G. Duggan				Da Vinci: Mr T. Coleman				Da Vinci: Mr T. Coleman			
Goethe: Mr P. Higgins				Roosevelt: Mr P. Higgins				Roosevelt: Mr P. Higgins			
Roosevelt: Mr P. Higgins				Roosevelt: Mr P. Higgins				Roosevelt: Mr P. Higgins			

Pandemic support by the College's Health Centre Nurses

Since the College Health Centre temporarily closed its doors at the start of the initial Covid lockdown back in March, the College's four Registered Nurses have been helping to support the National Health Service (NHS) in the fight against the virus; from working in local hospitals (Intensive Care Units and Emergency Departments) in lockdown to ongoing contact tracing for the NHS Test & Trace programme. Now, as we break up for the Christmas holidays, all members of the Health Centre Nursing Team have offered their time and clinical skills to assist with the rollout of the national Covid vaccination programme. Our Nurses will be working within the local community in Bishop's Stortford to bring the vaccine to the most vulnerable people initially and to the wider local population over the coming months.



Advent Run

The pandemic has proven difficult for everyone, some are still being faced with daily struggles. For this reason a group of Year 13 students have decided to run the advent calendar. They have been running every day and will continue for the 24 days leading up to Christmas with the distance increasing each day, totalling 150km.

This involves running half the number of kilometres of each day leading up to Christmas. For example 10th December = 5k, 20th December = 10k and so on.

They are raising money in aid of Bishop's Stortford Food Bank and every donation will help to feed the local families who are struggling this Christmas. Further details can be found on the attached poster.

Details of how you can donate can be found here <https://gf.me/u/zai3rg>

For more information about the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank please visit: <https://www.bishopstortfordfoodbank.com/food-dontations>



Recycling IT Devices - Can you help?

If you are about to upgrade a device in the family, perhaps you would consider donating the older device to the school? ITVet would refurbish the device free of charge to the school and pass back to us to use with students. (Naturally, we follow the usual procedures for quarantining and/or sanitising equipment to ensure Covid-safe conditions are maintained.)

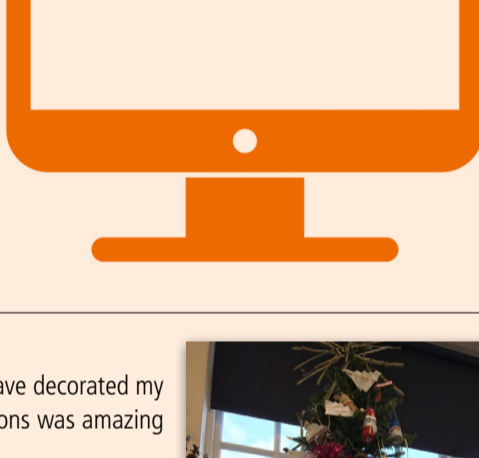
Where can I send my device?

Please send into school for the attention of IT Support along with any peripherals, such as power lead, box, but don't worry if you don't have all these things as we may have a spare charging cable ourselves.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Mr C Appleford

Director of Mathematics



Sustainable Christmas Decoration competition

Thank you very much for all of the wonderful sustainable Christmas decorations. I have decorated my tree in H2 and it looks fantastic. The variety of materials used to create the decorations was amazing - who knew you could make a decoration from a crisp packet or a drinks bottle?

The winners were as follows:

Year 7 Eleanor

Year 8 Koko

Year 9 Leanne

Most festive decorations: Sofia

Most sustainable decorations: Oscar and Mide

Each entrant into the competition received 10 points for their Equipe.

Thank you again, and Merry Christmas.

Mrs Mackenzie



'Wear Your Band T-shirt To Work' Day update



>YEAR 9

Meningitis ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccination - Thursday 28th January at 8.30AM

Please follow the links below to a letter and consent form regarding this vaccine. Please could parents complete the form and return to the Health Centre by Friday 8th January, even if you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine. If you have any queries please contact the Vaccination Team on 01462 3441173 or Vaccinationhertfordshire@evguk.co.uk and not the Health Centre.

https://www.hockerill.com/uploads/asset_file/3_1305_dtp-acwy-cover-letter-2020.pdf

https://www.hockerill.com/uploads/asset_file/3_1302_dtp-and-meningitis-consent-2019-002.pdf

Design Technology

This term Year 9 have been Designing and Making MP3 Amplifiers for use by a client of their choice, who represents a definitive group of users such as university students, old people or DIYers. The Amp. will be used in a particular location such as the kitchen, study, festival or even on the beach! They have constructed the electronics to do the amplification and applied suitable graphics discussed with their client so it will fit into the environment where it will eventually be used. There was a large range of good quality practical work much of it backed up with excellent design folders. Many of the Year 9 group will not go onto study GCSE Design Technology next year but the skills and application of the Design Process they have learnt at KS3 will be useful and transferable to many other subjects and courses they will study in the future.



Mr Whiteley

Head of Lower College

>YEAR 11

The last day of teaching for the Year 11s will be Friday 21st May 2021, with the examinations beginning on the 26th May 2021. On Saturday 22nd May, students will be invited to a Final Assembly in which they will be issued with their Year 11 Hoodies and their Year Book. The assembly will finish at 1015hrs and students should leave campus no later than 1030hrs. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

GCSE Timetable

Please find the 2021 GCSE Examinations timetable here

https://www.hockerill.com/uploads/asset_file/GCSE_Exam_Timetable.pdf

Hooded Sweatshirts

A Year 11 hooded sweatshirt is available for all of the Year 11 students to purchase, please see details attached.

https://www.hockerill.com/uploads/asset_file/3_1304_hockerill-hooded-sweatshirts-class-of-2021.pdf

>HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

THANK YOU

At the end of a challenging term, HPF would like to thank all the Hockerill staff, parents and pupils for their wonderful and much appreciated support.

As a result of hard work on the part of the staff, our children have been able to return safely to school, to reconnect with their studies and their friends. Thank you!

Your generosity, too, as parents has meant that despite the challenging times, we have managed to raise over £1000 this term.

Some of this was donated to the children's Christmas parties. The rest will stay in the pot until it is allocated to new projects in the New Year. We'll keep you updated on these - and please do feel free to make suggestions. They are always welcome.

We leave you with two 'projects' to think about over the holidays:

Thrift+

If anyone is planning a pre or post-Christmas wardrobe clear-out, you might consider donating your unwanted items to Thrift+.

It's super quick and easy to do: follow the link, order some free bags, fill them with your used or unwanted clothes and choose to donate your proceeds (or a part of them) to HPF. The bags are returned free of charge.

Go to <https://thrift.plus/pages/donate>

Hockerill Calendar

Calling all photographers!

We'd love to put together a calendar using photos taken by the students. All we need are photos taken around the school of nature or the buildings themselves - we're afraid you can't include photos of yourself or other pupils. Each month we'll ask you to submit your photos and the best will be chosen for inclusion in the calendar. December photos can be submitted now to hpf@hockerill.com; please include your name and form group.

Have a great Christmas! The HPF team.

>MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

After a very different and often challenging start to the academic year, some useful resources for students and parents to help support mental health and wellbeing over the Christmas holidays.

- Kooth is a free, anonymous and safe online mental wellbeing community for young people. It has a range of different features including articles, discussion boards, peer support, mini activity hub, personal goal tracking and chats with a friendly team of qualified professionals up until 10pm each night, 365 days per year. <https://www.kooth.com/>
- Kooth are also providing a parent session. The next session is via Zoom on Wednesday 16th December at noon. To join please use the Zoom ID 983 7658 6646
- The charity Young Minds has produced a Parents' Helpfinder to guide parents in understanding how best to support their child's mental health during the pandemic

https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=supporting-parents&utm_content=december20

- The OLLIE Foundation (One Life Lost is Enough)

Christmas can be a tricky time mental health-wise; changes to routine, heightened emotions and expectations all under one (tinsel-y) roof. For help in looking after yourself and supporting others, join The OLLIE Foundation 11am on the 15th of December for 90minute Zoom session that explores how the brain processes emotions and learn simple tips to manage moments of overwhelm, stress, sleeplessness and loneliness.

To book your place, please email contactus@theolliefoundation.org

- From Winston's Wish (the UK's child bereavement charity)

10 ways you can mark anniversaries, birthdays and special days for lost loved ones

https://www.hockerill.com/uploads/asset_file/3_1303_10-ways-to-remember-anniversaries.pdf

>BOARDING

Operation Christmas Cheer

The Bishop's Stortford Independent and the Welbeloved Club were grateful to receive 25 packed shoe boxes full of Christmas presents.

Students from Canterbury and Winchester packed the shoeboxes on Saturday afternoon

which were filled with generous donations from parents, staff and students. Thank you to those who donated. The Welbeloved Club does some excellent work in the local community attempting to combat social isolation amongst the elderly.

Boarders Activity Day

Thank you to Clownfish who came to deliver an activity day on Sunday to keep our full boarders occupied. The company offered a number of activities including Scalextric, a Snowboard Simulator and Crazy Golf to name a few.

Test to Release Scheme

A reminder to parents of International Boarders that I will be writing to you with further details of the Test to Release Scheme after the 15th December once the scheme has been launched.

