

## NEWS



### Welcome back to the Lent Term and Happy New Year.

2021 may not be starting quite as we expected but at least we are in territory that is familiar to us. Remote learning is not the same as face-to-face learning but our experience in the first lockdown was positive and we are confident that we can keep students on track. There are still a number of things that we do not yet have full clarity on e.g. what exactly will be required for the GCSE grades to be awarded, and so the key message at this point for students in all year groups is to keep studying as if nothing has changed. As and when we have further information we will respond accordingly.

### Online Learning

Following the government announcement about school closure, we adapted our Inset day programme so that teachers and support staff had time to prepare for another period of online learning. During the first lockdown teachers at Hockerill provided excellent lessons using Teams. This was recognised by many of you and enabled most of our students to stay up with their studies making the return to College in September easier for all. During the Michaelmas Term we have retained the use of Teams as a teaching and learning platform and this will make moving back to online learning much easier for everyone. We have continued to have training with the use of Teams and have worked towards a more consistent use across subject areas. This will all contribute towards high quality teaching and learning, and we very much intend to continue to support students fully with their learning so that they do not get behind with their studies.

This week we have written to Year 11 and Year 13 students to reassure them that we will continue to support them and keep them informed of changes to the way they are assessed and graded for their GCSEs and IBDP subjects. We are awaiting further guidance from Ofqual and the DfE on how GCSEs will be assessed. The IB have already made changes to courses for Year 13 students but we are expecting further communication from them in the light of the current situation. We will keep parents and students informed at every stage. In the interim, the expectation is that students will continue with their courses as normal.

Students in all year groups can expect to receive clear instructions for all their lessons. Most lessons will have a live element where the teacher will explain the work and outline expectations for activities and work to be completed. This will vary depending on the nature of the lesson and the level of independent work the students need to complete. Where possible, the teacher will be online to assist students who have questions when completing independent work. We are also exploring ways of supporting individuals and groups of students using some of the new features on Teams. Students can expect the following.

- All home learning will be facilitated through Microsoft TEAMS.
- All online resources will be well-organised and easy for students to access.
- Expectations for remote teaching will be that lessons for Years 10 and above should be live for at least part of the lesson, preferably for most or all of the lesson, but this will depend on the nature of the particular lesson.
- In Years 7 to 9 lessons should be 'live' whenever possible but where that is not possible teachers must have live contact with all students in their classes at least once per week.

### Increasing data allowances to support disadvantaged children

The government has announced a scheme where the data allowances on mobile devices can be increased for disadvantaged children to support online learning. Please see the link below. If you think you qualify and would like the college to apply on your behalf, please send the relevant information to Ms McCulloch via [mcullocha@hockerill.com](mailto:mcullocha@hockerill.com)

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

### Remote Learning Procedures - Roles and Responsibilities

#### Parents

- Check your child/children can log on to Microsoft Teams and can access the work set.
- Ensure your child/children is available to complete the work at the time of their timetabled lesson. If this is not possible due to time zone difference etc., please establish a school day routine in line with your own time zone. Please ensure that the College is aware that your child/children will not be available for live lessons due to time zone issues.
- Advise your child/children that classroom teachers will aim to be available at the timetabled lesson time for all Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 classes. Where possible, teachers will aim to be present for lessons for other year groups and will ensure that there is live contact at least once a week. Lessons will be set on TEAMS and the expectations made clear in all cases.
- Provide students with a quiet and suitable space to work, where possible, without distraction, so they are able to benefit from the lesson and continue to learn.
- Ensure your child/children are not present in public spaces during school hours, apart from those which will benefit their learning and provide internet access if required, such as public libraries.
- Children must follow all COVID guidelines set out by the government that relate to the Tier that the home area falls under.

All students will be able to contact their classroom teachers through Teams or via email if there is a need to do so. Each Head of Year has also created a Team so they are able to disseminate information quickly and effectively.

Parents are able to contact their child's Head of Year by email. The Year group email (year7@hockerill.com and so on) will still be active and monitored regularly.

Please read through the expectations for students carefully, discuss these with your child/children and support the College in ensuring they meet these throughout this period.

#### Remote Education Provision

Please see the following link for information about your child's remote education:

[Remote Learning Provision at Hockerill](#)

If your child at Hockerill is struggling to access lessons while in lockdown due to lack of a suitable device because of financial difficulties, please contact Christian Appleford via [admin@hockerill.com](mailto:admin@hockerill.com) as the school may be able to loan a device for the short term.

#### Students

- Students will follow their timetable lesson by lesson and will therefore complete College work each day that the College would normally be open
- Students will be expected to submit completed work to their teacher – work would be uploaded to Teams or submitted through email. Students will be given a deadline for submission of work and this deadline should be met
- Students must not use personal email addresses or social media accounts to keep in touch with staff – all students must use their hockerill.com email address
- Attendance will be monitored, and attendance issues will be addressed

#### Live Classes on Teams

- Students must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and where possible be against a neutral background
- Behaviour must be appropriate (in line with College rules). The same behaviour expectations as at College will apply when being taught remotely

#### Teachers

- As far as possible teachers will maintain College working hours. During these hours they will read and respond to emails, plan resources and provide feedback as well as remotely teach lessons
- Teachers should make every attempt to be contactable for the lesson times of Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. They will, as much as is possible, try to present live lessons for other year groups. When this is not possible, lesson expectations will be clear.
- Teacher will provide lesson resources and materials via Teams for all lessons
- Teachers will use Teams to communicate with students, allowing for individual students to raise questions and the teacher to provide the whole class with answers and advice
- Teacher will set tasks/activities of appropriate length approximately 50/60mins
- Teacher will provide model answers and other opportunities for students to self-assess at home will also be considered
- Feedback will be in line with the Assessment Policy. Work will be regularly checked.

#### Prep

The government guidelines set a suggested time that students should get remote learning for each day and our school day of five 1-hour lessons more than meets this for all students. We have therefore taken the decision that, as far as possible, we will not be setting prep for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 during the lockdown. Work will still be checked and students in Years 7 to 9 may need to prepare for assessments and spend some time finishing off work from their online lessons after the school day but this should be minimal. In languages, students will also need to practice vocabulary as little and often is key to acquisition. Limited prep should ensure that they have time to get outside and get some fresh air and exercise during the shorter winter days. In Years 10 to 13 we will need to set prep so that students remain on track with their courses. It is important however that older students have some down time and are able to exercise and look after their all-round well-being. Please do contact us if you have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child or the amount of work they are being set.

#### Lateral Flow Testing

During the Christmas break we wrote to you about the Lateral Flow testing programme that we have been asked to implement. The delayed return to College means that the planned testing of all students twice, 3 to 5 days apart, will not happen except for the key worker and vulnerable students who are in school and who we have been testing. To do these tests we have a group of volunteers who have kindly offered their time and who completed their training and set-up of our Testing Centre this week. We will contact you again about the testing programme nearer the end of lockdown so that when we do return to College all students have had the necessary tests. We do therefore still need your consent to test your child and urge you to please complete this [Consent Form](#) ASAP if you have not done so already.



#### Boarding

Boarding has remained open for children of critical workers, vulnerable students and students who have not been able to return home due to travel issues. We will write to parents whose children have remained in boarding early next week to outline the arrangements during this time. We look forward to welcoming back the boarders who are residing at home when we can.

#### EU Settlement Scheme

The College is in dialogue with the BSA regarding the impacts the pandemic will have on the EU Settlement Scheme. The BSA has agreed to seek clarification from the Department for Education regarding this matter and as soon as we have any news this will be shared with parents.

## CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS AND / OR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The Department for Education has informed schools that they should gather information to be able to identify Vulnerable Students and/or the Children of Critical Workers. Schools should offer supervised learning for these students if they require it.

To be able to identify all our students who fall into these two categories and those who require supervision at school a parent/carer is asked to complete one form for each of their children who attend Hockerill.

Please could all parents/carers ensure that you complete this form regardless of whether you are a Critical Worker and/or your child is a Vulnerable Student.

Please use this link to access the Form: <https://tinyurl.com/y6qjs5pn>

The Form will close at 1000hrs on Thursday 14th January.

Thank you

**Alasdair Mackenzie**

Vice Principal

## THE COLLEGE DAY

The College day will begin at 08.50 with morning registration. Students must be in their form room by 08.50 ready to register or they will be recorded as late.

#### Monday - Friday

Start	Finish	Details
08.50	09.10	Morning registration and tutor / assembly time
09.10	09.15	Changeover
09.15	10.15	Period 1 (prompt end to lesson)
10.15	10.20	Changeover
10.20	11.20	Period 2
11.20	11.35	Morning break
11.35	11.40	Changeover
12.40	13.30	Lunch time
13.35	14.35	Period 4
14.35	14.40	Changeover
14.40	15.40	Period 5
16.00	17.00	Clubs

#### Saturday

Start	Finish	Details
08.50	08.55	Morning registration
08.55	09.00	Changeover
09.00	10.00	Period 1
10.00	10.05	Changeover
10.05	11.05	Period 2
11.05	11.15	Morning Break
11.15	11.20	Changeover
11.20	12.20	Period 3

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020 UPDATE

I am sure many of you will be as annoyed as me when we hear, "Christmas is about this or that ...", but whatever you think Christmas is about or believe there is little doubt that it is always good to try to do something for others. On Friday 11th December we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day at Hockerill. All students were invited to wear a festive Jumper, in addition to or instead of a blazer. As we have been running with the windows and doors open to keep up the ventilation an extra layer was most welcome. There were nearly 500 students who participated in the event, each donating £2 for our four nominated charities. The scope of the jumpers was extensive, from home goods to high fashion, from comic to religious and some with built in electronics! It was good to see some old favourites putting in their second or even third appearance and some being worn again by younger siblings of older students.

This year we supported the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, the RNLI, The Royal British Legion and Dementia UK. Thank you to all students and staff who took part to raise over £1200.00!

**Mr A Whiteley**

Head of the Lower College



## CAREERS ADVICE

The Personal Advisers from YCH Services for Young People (formerly Youth Connexions), Sian Shadbolt and Claire Johnstone will continue to be available remotely by video technology via Microsoft Teams (or telephone/email) throughout this term to support Key Stage 4 & 5 students and to give advice and guidance on careers and future employment or study.

During Year 11 all students will have a careers interview and those students who have not already had an interview will be sent an invitation via their school email to a Teams meeting. Their form tutors and subject teachers will be made aware who has an appointment and students will be able to come out of lessons to attend this meeting. The students are all then sent an Action Plan and the Plan will also be saved to their Unifrog account.

#### University Applications

UCAS has extended their Equal Consideration deadline to 1800hrs on Friday 29th January, giving students an extra 2 weeks to submit their application. We would, however, like all students who have yet to apply and still want to "pay and send" their UCAS form by first thing Monday 11th January, which give us sufficient time to check the application and add references and predicted grades. If any student would like to discuss their application, or who are not planning on applying and would like to discuss other post 18 options, they can contact Trk Winship ([winshipa@hockerill.com](mailto:winshipa@hockerill.com)) to arrange a Teams meeting.

#### Cambridge University Applications

Gonville & Caius College is the link college for schools in our region and they will be opening their doors virtually over the February half term to help state school students in Years 9, 10 and 12 explore what the College and the University has to offer. Students don't have to be specifically interested in Caius, or indeed just Cambridge, most of what they will learn would apply to other colleges and to Oxford

#### 16th February – Year 9 and 10

This day will provide the opportunity to hear general information about Cambridge; gain support in considering future subject choices; attend engaging master lectures as well as ask questions to current students and the admissions team. Students can register their interest in attending by completing this short survey form: [https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b8bh34oz6n9s901](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8bh34oz6n9s901)

#### 18th February – Year 12

This day will provide the opportunity to hear more about Caius; gain support in making a competitive application to the University; meet Directors of Studies and ask questions of our current students and admissions team. Please ask students to register their interest in attending by completing this short survey form: [https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3gWEav9450fe17L](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3gWEav9450fe17L)

## YEAR 8

#### Year 8 Online Parent Consultations

Please find details [here](#) of the forthcoming Year 8 Student/Parent/Teacher evening which will take place via video calls on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 from 1700-1930hrs. Please read the instructions carefully on how to log in and how to conduct the calls via the SchoolCloud system. If you have any queries, please e-mail [year8@hockerill.com](mailto:year8@hockerill.com)

**Mrs A Geissler**

Head of Year 8

## YEAR 9

#### Year 9 Vaccinations

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis ACWY Vaccination

Owing to lockdown and school closure, this vaccination session on 28th January had been postponed until further notice.

#### HPV Vaccination

The HPV Vaccination Clinic will take place on Monday 1st March for Year 9 students. Please could parents complete the following consent form [HPV Vaccination Consent Form](#) and return by email to [healthcentre@hockerill.com](mailto:healthcentre@hockerill.com) by Monday 1st February.