

NEWS



We are now two weeks into remote learning and we hope that all has been going well in your family. The feedback that we have had from parents has been overwhelmingly positive which has been great to receive and very motivating for staff. Thank you if you have taken the time to contact us. In last week's Hub we set out what you can expect from us in terms of Remote Learning and if you did not have a chance to read that we urge you to do so as it will give you a clear sense of what and how we are planning to maintain learning. We also gave advice and sources of information which explain how you can support your child(ren) which we hope have been of some help. The biggest challenge of this lockdown period is perhaps the uncertainty around so many things that affect our students e.g. exams. As things stand the only thing we know for sure is that we are going to be working online until the February half-term and so encourage all students to see that as the first objective. Beyond that we will deal with once we know what is happening.

Student Support

Form Tutors, Classroom teachers and Heads of Year are monitoring our student attendance, engagement in lessons and contribution to lessons. We are pleased to report that most students are able to access their learning remotely and whilst they are not having the same experience as being in school, they are participating well in lessons and will be making progress.

The College has arranged a simple process for form tutors and teachers to report student concerns. In the first instance a classroom teacher or form tutor will contact the student directly either through Teams or by their College email address. If there is a need to contact parents a class teacher, tutor, Head of Year or member of support staff will do so. Please be assured that the College will make contact with you if there is an emerging concern about your child.

Whilst the majority of students are able to manage school closure there are some students who find remote learning challenging; if your child is one of these you must contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year to discuss how best to help them. The College has a number of student support strategies and the earlier we are able to intervene the sooner we are able to get them back on track.

Mental Health Support

Please see the guidance below for young people in a mental health crisis.

The NHS and our local hospitals are really busy at the moment, so if you're experiencing a mental health crisis, the quickest way to get help at any time of the day or night is to call our freephone number: 0800 6444 101 or call NHS 111 and select option 2 for mental health services.

In the case of serious illness or injury, dial 999 for emergency services.

If you are already receiving support from us and need help please contact:

Your care co-ordinator on the number provided to you or if you need help in the evening, weekend or bank holiday call 0800 6444 101.

Email: hpft.spa@nhs.net for non-urgent enquiries For a range of self-help information please follow this link: <https://www.hpft.nhs.uk/services/community-services/wellbeing-service/self-help/>

Live webchat service

If you'd prefer to speak online, click on the SPA red button via this website: <https://www.hpft.nhs.uk/> This service is available Monday-Friday, 7am-7pm.

Alternative Contacts

[Samaritans](#) - Tel: 116 123, 24 hours a day, every day.

[Childline](#) - Tel: 0800 1111 via [1-2-1 Chat](#) between 7.30am and 3.30am every day.

[HOPELINE UK \(Papyrus\)](#) - Tel: 0800 0684141 Text: 07786209697 Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org, 10am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends and bank holidays.

Most referrals to our services are made by GPs.

If you are experiencing mental health problems and need help please speak to your GP (family doctor). They will discuss the issues you are facing and refer you to our services, if appropriate. To register with a GP in your area go to www.nhs.uk

Boarders

We are analysing the boarding fee refund that we will be able to make once we have deducted our unavoidable costs. The uncertainty of how long the closure will last makes this a difficult calculation to make. Please be assured that we will share with you the percentage of boarding fees that we can refund as soon as we possibly can.

We have about 20 boarders still in College who have remained due to specific family circumstances. To make the supervision of these students more effective we have placed them all in one boarding house. However, should you need to contact us about your child please continue to contact their usual Head of House. If for some reason you need your child to return to boarding during this time, please contact Mr Will Conolly directly via email conollyw@hockerill.com.

Quarantine Charge

Given that most boarders quarantine period, which was due to start on Monday 4th January, was impacted by the notice of school closure early last week, the College will not be charging parents for any of the days their child spent in quarantine.

Test to Release

The College have been able to return all of the PCR tests which were ordered for the Test to Release Scheme, apart from the parents who had specifically requested that their child still undertook the test. There will be no charge to boarding parents for the cost of the tests that were unused.

International Arrivals

When international boarders return to College, please be aware that passengers arriving from all international destinations will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours before departing for England. Please see further details in the link [here](#).

Boarding Parents Forum: Wednesday 27th January 1900hrs

A reminder that there is an online Boarding Parents Forum meeting scheduled for an hour on Wednesday 27th January at 1900hrs. I would be grateful if questions could be submitted prior to the event via the link below. The deadline for submission of questions is Thursday 21st January 0900hrs, these questions will define the agenda items. There will be an opportunity in the meeting to post questions, dependent on the volume it may not be possible to answer all these questions, so I would recommend using the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/27thjanboardingforum>

Information on how to join the meeting and the agenda will be published in the Hockerill Hub next week.

Summer Exams

We have two sets of summer exams to prepare students for. In Year 11 we have GCSEs and in Y13 the IB Diploma.

GCSE: We already know that GCSEs will not be happening in their usual format. What will replace them is now being considered and there is a two-week national consultation process while the best and fairest approach is developed. Once we know what data schools will be asked to supply in support of grade awards, we will inform you of how we plan to generate that data. In the meantime, Y11 students must continue to apply themselves to all of their work to the best of their ability so that whatever assessment framework is decided upon they are fully prepared.

IB Diploma: The IBO have contacted all schools and asked them to complete a short survey. The survey asks schools to declare if they will be able to host exams in May. If exams are not possible an alternate 'basket' of information will be used to generate grades though what exactly this basket will include we have not been informed. This is obviously a difficult decision to make as it is partly a function of what is best for students given the IB learning journey they have had and a health and safety question that will be determined by the public health guidelines in place at that time. Our view is that we should proceed on the basis that we will be allowed to host exams and make the decision based on what is the fairest approach – exams or alternate assessment data - for our students. Staff are being consulted as to how prepared they feel students would be for exams and the Y13 prefects have surveyed the students and given their thoughts. If as a parent you have any views that you feel we should consider please do not hesitate to share them with us by emailing our Head of Sixth Form Mr Pete Bromfield at bromfieldp@hockerill.com. The survey has to be returned to the IBO by January 20th. We will of course share with you the decision that we take.

Timetable Tuesday 19th January

Please remind your children that on Tuesday 19th, Periods 1, 2 and 3 will be a Week B Saturday and not their usual Week B Tuesday timetable.

University Entrance Success

Year 13 students may be having a slightly uncertain time due to their IB exams but they are beginning to get news of offers of places from universities. That is always a very exciting moment as the reality of what might come after school starts to become clearer. This week Oxford University announced their offers and we were delighted to hear that 6 of our students have received offers. This is a remarkable achievement and testament to the commitment of the students and quality of the support from our university guidance staff.

Letter to parents

We have been asked to share this [letter](#) with parents from Simon Newland, Operations Director of Education and Jim McManus, Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council.

Admissions

Demand for places at Secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford has been higher than ever this year and at Hockerill we have seen record numbers of applications. In order to respond to this demand, we have agreed to admit for September 2021 only, an additional 30 students (20 day and 10 boarding) above our Published Admission Number (PAN) of 120. We will therefore be allocating 150 places (88 day places and 62 boarding places). This will be done in accordance with our existing admissions arrangements, following the existing criteria. As we are not formally amending our PAN, we are not able to increase the number of places allocated on aptitude, so the number of places for aptitude will remain at 12 (7 for language, 3 for music, 2 for combined scores).

YEAR 12

Year 12 Parent Teacher Evening

Please follow the link below to view the details for the Year 12 Parent Teacher evening taking place on Wednesday 20th January.

[Year 12 PTE letter](#)

YEAR 13

IB Examinations May 2021

Please follow the below to view a letter regarding the IB exams in May 2021.

[Year 13 letter regarding IB exams](#)

SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS - LIVE BROADCAST SCHEDULES

Students may find these live broadcasts next week of interest:

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Tues 19th January 5-6pm LINK TO JOIN	Anthony Salcito , Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Education for KS4-5/S4-6	Anthony Salcito is the Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Education and was previously the Vice President of the Public Sector & Government. Anthony's role involves empowering educators and inspiring students to achieve more. He aims to transform the way we all learn, with the support of the best technology, to help build the skills needed for the 21st century workplace. In this SFS broadcast, tune in to hear Anthony's thoughts on how technology has impacted education, what skills are important for your future career and get the opportunity to ask your questions!
Wed 20th January 10-11am LINK TO JOIN HERE	Sophie Darlington , Wildlife Cinematographer for KS3-5/S1-6	Join us to hear Sophie Darlington share insights into what it is like to be a Wildlife Cinematographer. Sophie will be interviewed by SFS on what it was like to work on "Our Planet" and "Perfect Planet", where she gains her inspiration from and will be sharing some top tips on filmmaking. A broadcast not to be missed for students interested in nature and filmmaking.
Wed 20th January on ZOOM 2-3pm FORM TO SIGN UP	Introduction to Animation & VFX with Industrial Light & Magic for KS3/ S1-3	Join Industrial Light and Magic for this ZOOM webinar about what it's like to have a career in VFX! There will be the opportunity to hear from people who work for ILM and how they started in their careers and more about their work. There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions too.



HOW TO JOIN THE LIVE BROADCASTS

- Join 10 minutes before the broadcast to be ready
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)
- For full speaker descriptions visit the [Broadcast Schedule here](#)

HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Happy New Year from HPF.

We had 130 balloons racing around in our first virtual balloon race in December and would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who got involved. We hope you enjoyed it and together we raised over £600.

The race was won by "Balloony" who travelled 1947km to win £100! The winner has kindly donated £50 to HPF and £50 to MIND – Thank you.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for future "Covid secure" or virtual fundraising events please do get in touch via HPF@hockerill.com

Stay safe

The HPF team