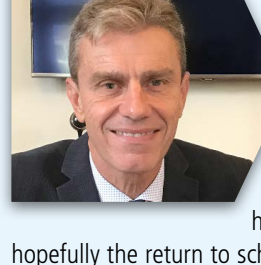


## NEWS



We are now three weeks into lockdown remote learning and our sense is that students are well-engaged, on track and showing remarkable resilience. Remote learning is not the same as face-to-face teaching even when remote lessons are 'live', but students and staff are doing a great job to sustain learning and keep things moving forward. The challenge is knowing what we are moving forward to in terms of the timing of the return to school and, for exam classes, final assessments. The uncertainty is unhelpful for everyone and we wish we could give you some clarity on what the future holds. What we do know is that infection rates are moving in the right direction and so hopefully the return to school will be possible sooner rather than later. After half-term (Monday February 22nd) is the earliest possible return date and the government have indicated that they will give two weeks' notice of the date on which schools will return. For the GCSE and IB exams what will happen is even less clear, but you - parents and students - are able to participate in the process for determining what decisions will be made and we have included below how you can get involved in the government's consultation process. The consultation surveys are open for responses until January 29th.

### Consultation on how GCSE and IB grades should be awarded in summer 2021

Please click on the relevant links below:

- [Letter regarding GCSE exams - consultation and survey link](#)
- [Letter regarding IB Diploma exams - consultation and survey link](#)

### Covid-19 Premium Catch Up Funding

For the 2020 to 2021 year the government is providing funding to cover a one-off universal catch-up premium. It aims to support pupils to catch up for lost learning due to the lockdown from March 2020 to July 2020. It will also be used to support students in the same way during and after the current lockdown.

Schools are able to use the funding in ways that best benefit students. We have been busy putting in place a number of approaches to supporting students which are briefly outlined below.

We have updated our approach to interventions, support and guidance to ensure that all students are supported in their development. Strategies are being put in place across subject areas through pastoral support overseen by Heads of Year, and in subject areas overseen by Heads of Faculty so that all students are supported with their learning and their social and emotional skills.

Following reports, we analyse data and use this and other evidence to identify students who need support. This support can be provided by focused support in class, through extra support either in small groups or individually, or by providing external support through the National Tuition programme.

The actions that we have taken so far include:

- Year 7 STEM lessons have been temporarily suspended to provide an opportunity for students in Year 7 to follow an individualised catch-up programme in English and Maths. We are using the IXL website to assist with this (<https://uk.ixl.com/>). Students take a diagnostic test and then follow a programme that helps plug any gaps in their knowledge or enables them to extend their knowledge if appropriate. Students have their own log in and can use the site outside of the lesson as well if they choose to do so. We are looking to make this site available to students in other year groups as well.
- In many subject areas we are able to provide support from our teachers. Following interventions meetings, each faculty will decide on which students need Tier 1 (in class), Tier 2 (withdrawal or in class help) or Tier 3 (extra help either through sessions with a teacher or through external tuition). This is currently in place for students in Year 11 and Year 13.
- We are in the process of setting up external tuition for some of our vulnerable students across all year groups and will look to extend this to more students for whom we feel this is an appropriate and valuable learning opportunity.

We aim to target students in Year 12 and Year 10 in our next phase of Catch-Up Support. This will start to take place this term following the publication of their reports.

#### Sarah Pearson

Vice Principal (Curriculum)

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday 23rd January**  
Exeat weekend
- Wednesday 27th January**  
Boarding Parents Forum (see Boarding section below for details)
- Tuesday 2nd February**  
Year 8 Parent Consultations (see Year 8 section below for details)
- w/c Monday 15th February**  
Half Term

### REMINDERS

The deadline to book Year 8 Parents' evening appointments is Thursday 28th January (see Year 8 section below for details).  
The deadline for the Year 9 HPV Vaccination consent form is Monday 1st February (see Year 9 section below for details).

### CONTACT US:

**General communications to:**  
[admin@hockerill.com](mailto:admin@hockerill.com)

**Absence communications to:**  
[absence@hockerill.com](mailto:absence@hockerill.com)

## BOARDING NEWS

### Boarders

We have been working hard to ascertain the boarding fee refund that we will be able to make for this school closure period. Not knowing how long the closure will be for makes this difficult but all boarding parents who currently have their children at home will be receiving a letter in the near future which sets out what refund we can make.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the date of full reopening of College, parents are recommended to have flexible travel plans for their children. Once the College is aware of the date when we can welcome the boarders back, this will be communicated to parents. We will once again offer a quarantine service and provide details regarding the Government's Test to Release scheme. Please also keep in mind that should you wish your child to return to boarding at College because you are a Critical Worker or there is some other kind of home difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### EU Settlement Scheme

The College has heard back from our lawyers who have clarified the following with regards to the EU Settlement Scheme and the impact of the current national lockdown., the key paragraph is quoted below:

"If you are a student who was studying in the UK and are studying outside the UK because of coronavirus, that absence will not cause you to break your continuous qualifying period, where it is for a single period of more than 6 months but not more than 12 months, during your 5-year continuous qualifying period."

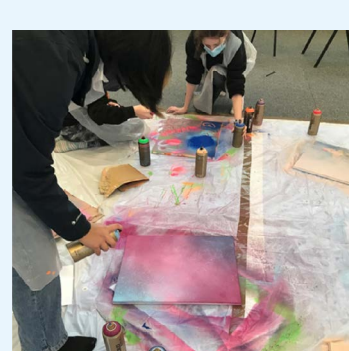
Further information can be found [here](#).

### Boarding Parents Forum - Wednesday 27th January 1900hrs

Please see link below to access the Online Boarding Parents Forum that will run from 1900-2000hrs on Wednesday 27th January. An agenda for the meeting will be emailed to Boarding Parents prior to the meeting. The online meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams.

<https://tinyurl.com/forum27jan>

Congratulations to **Audette Somsouthi** who created the best spray-painted canvas over the weekend. Thank you to Mrs Faiers for organising this event.



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The Hockerill Young Enterprise group of 2020-21 would like to thank the Hockerill Community for their support for contributing to, and then buying the recipe calendars. Any undelivered calendars will be delivered when we return to college. In total the group raised £652 from the sale of the calendars. This is the highest amount raised by an event in the history of Young Enterprise at Hockerill. The group will be entering the Hertfordshire Young Enterprise Competition later this term and are in the process of writing a Company Report and a presentation.

## HOCKERILL COLLEGE COUNCIL - THE STUDENT VOICE

The College Council is a student organisation overseen by Mr Whiteley and Mr Woods. It aims to transmit valuable feedback from students to staff to facilitate change which the students believe would make Hockerill a better place live, work and study. All members represent a certain group or area within the College, including sports, music, languages and boarding. The council meets every month to discuss a range of issues and to consider workable solutions to problems that have been raised. Owing to the current circumstances, the College Council has recently been meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams to ensure that this vital communication continues to take place in a COVID-safe manner. The latest meeting occurred on Tuesday 19th January and was attended by over 20 members. Some of the interesting items for discussion were ...

Firstly, there was a universal cohesion and agreement in the fact that lessons lack some of the social interactions and useful discussions which are such a vital part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Middle Years Programmes. Although this is to be expected whilst working online, it was decided that it should be a priority to facilitate this by encouraging the use of cameras and microphones in Teams meetings to enable teachers to answer questions, discuss topics and make the learning experience as classroom-like as possible.

It was also raised that some students feel that the total time they have to spend in front of a screen, because of online learning, is unhealthy and that every effort should be made to minimize this as far as possible. Teachers will now be further encouraged and reminded to set work which could be done away from the screen wherever possible.

Mr Woods spoke briefly about the College Mission statement and the College Strategic Development going forward in reference to how we can be forward thinking in our vision for the years to come. Mr Woods explained that the College Council has a valuable role in informing the strategic development of the College.

Finally, Mr Mackenzie emphasised to all students that the same time and effort continues to be applied to ensuring student wellbeing during these challenging times as in normal school. Therefore, as always, he strongly encourages anyone who is struggling to speak to the available support networks as would be in "live school". The high-spirits and general wellbeing is of utmost importance to all staff at Hockerill and any students who feels the need should speak to their Head of Year, Form Tutor, House staff or any other adult in school who will help them and would be happy to listen.

#### Oliver Becchi

College Council member & Boys Sports Captain 9G

## FREE WEBINAR

You may be interested in this free webinar entitled "How to Support Anxious Online Learners". This will be held on Tuesday 26th January at 1600hrs GMT.

Please follow the link to register: [Creative Education webinar](#)

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who, over the last few weeks, have supported me with the practical Food Technology lessons during online learning. All of the students who are currently studying Food Technology in KS3 or Food Preparation and Nutrition in KS4 have been busy with their practical work. Year 7 have been making fresh fruit salads, Year 8 have developed their use of hobs and ovens as they have been busy creating their pasta meals, Year 9 were tasked to create dough and pasta products for their multi-cultural street food stalls and Year 10 have created dishes using rice and other high-risk ingredients. As always, I am delighted with their enthusiasm and the standard achieved. The selection of products shown have been created by Alicia Norton (Year 7), Felix Strain and Jessica McCrae (Year 8), Sofia Garcia and Leo Ranade (Year 9) and George Mackenzie (Year 10).

#### Mrs Whiteley



## UNIVERSITY NEWS

### Meet the Russell Group – Wednesday 10th February

Join us anytime between 12 and 7pm for the opportunity to explore all 24 Russell Group universities and chat directly to their representatives and ambassadors. This free online event is for opportunity for Year 11, 12 and 13 students, parents or teachers. Find out more and [register here](#).

## 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 email [year8@hockerill.com](mailto:year8@hockerill.com)

#### Mrs A Geissler

Head of Year 8

## YEAR 9

### 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.

## MUSIC

### Instrumental, Vocal and Theory 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:
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.

### Important Message for Parents of children in Years 11 and 13

Usually at this point in the academic year, we would remind parents of exam students (years 11 & 13) that music lessons continue throughout the exam period unless you have given notice to stop prior to this. Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic this year, the situation with Summer exams remains uncertain, however, music lessons are planned to continue as usual. We have found that students have been enjoying their instrumental/vocal lessons and it has been both beneficial and fun for them to continue their extra-curricular activities throughout a difficult time. If your child wishes to stop lessons for any reason, you must inform us by the above deadline dates.

If your child is in Year 11 and hopes to return to Hockerill for Year 12, we would be delighted if they chose to continue having their music lessons with us in September. If they wish to either continue their lessons, or take up a new instrument, please ensure that you fill in the electronic application form included in your Welcome Pack later in the Summer term.

Please contact us at [musicadmin@hockerill.com](mailto:musicadmin@hockerill.com) if you have any queries.

#### Mr Bond

Director of Music

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Access to magazines and resources online during Lockdown

A reminder that Hertfordshire Libraries offer a wide range of services, including access to ebooks, audiobooks, online magazines and newspapers. All who live, work or study in Hertfordshire, can join the library online. You can use your membership number and PIN straight away to access most of the services. Whilst the temporary membership number usually has to be exchanged for a permanent membership card within 28 days, this has been extended to take account of the current restrictions. International boarders can also join but need to use the College as their address.

First News, the UK's only newspaper for children is also free during school closures. You can get your weekly digital copy by using this link <https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/free-downloadable-issue/>

At a time of so much fake news on social media, this is a great resource.

#### Mrs Bruce

Acting College Librarian