

IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS

Covid-19 Vaccination for 12 to 15 Year Olds – Monday 11th October

IMPORTANT – RESPONSE REQUIRED

You will be aware that the NHS Immunisations Team will be in College on Monday 11th October to roll out the Covid-19 vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds. Thank you to those parents who have already completed the online consent form. However, we have been advised by the NHS Immunisations Team that they have been experiencing some technical difficulties with their online consent form. If you are unable to complete the consent form online (link below) please complete this [PAPER CONSENT FORM](#) This can be handed into the school office or emailed to admin@hockerill.com no later than 12 noon on Friday 8th October. The form has options to consent to or decline the vaccine, so parents are asked to complete the form, whatever their choice.

[Covid-19 Vaccination Letter and Online Consent Form](#)

For further details and guidance for parents please follow the link below:

[Further guidance for parents](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 25th September
Open Morning
(lessons finish at 1205)
Friday 15th October
Half term holiday commences
(students depart at 1540hrs)

CONTACT US:

General communications to:
admin@hockerill.com

Absence communications to:
absence@hockerill.com

Covid Testing

I am sure that you are aware that numbers of positive Coronavirus cases for teenagers are increasing, this is also reflected in data collected locally in Hertfordshire too. With this in mind, the College wanted to stress the importance of twice weekly testing and to remind parents (and students) to follow the reporting systems in place, both to the College and the government (links below). All students have been provided with tests this week.

College Reporting

[Report test result to school](#)

Government Reporting

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If you or your child are unable to test at home and you require some assistance from the College, we are able to offer a limited onsite testing provision, please contact the College for further details and to book an appointment via admin@hockerill.com

Please ensure that your child undertakes a lateral flow test over the weekend prior to returning to College. Boarders staying over the weekend will undertake a test on Sunday.

A reminder that your child should isolate if they are displaying any of the symptoms as outlined in the NHS guidance [here](#).

Thank you with your support with this.

HOCKERILL NEWS

Parents' Information Evenings

We are organising a number of Parents' Information Evenings where you will have an opportunity to listen to a presentation from your child's Head of Year and Mr Woods as well as other key staff. Presentations will include key information about the courses your child is studying as well as other important events which are planned for the year. Year 11 and Year 13 presentations will include information about mock and final examinations as well as 6th Form and University applications.

You will be able to ask questions through the 'chat' function; we hope to be able to answer these during the evening.

All events will take place through Microsoft Teams. You can join the event by clicking on the link below. Each event will begin at 1900hrs and should last no longer than one hour. We very much hope you are able to join us.

[Year Group 8 Thursday 7th October](#)

[Year Group 9 Monday 4th October](#)

[Year Group 10 Wednesday 29th September](#)

[Year Group 11 Tuesday 5th October](#)

[Year Group 12 Thursday 30th September](#)

If you are looking for more reasons to join Hockerill Sixth Form, below is an extract from the Times that proves the fact that studying a wider range of subjects leads to higher pay.

Pupils who choose a broad range of A-levels across several subject groups go on to earn 3% to 4% more than peers who studied similar subjects, according to a report by the Education Policy Institute think tank. However, the report found that fewer than 20% of pupils take a wide range of subjects, with around 17% of pupils taking A-level or equivalent qualifications in three or more of the five main subject groups in 2019, compared to around 38% in 2010. The researchers attributed this decline to funding cuts which led to schools offering fewer subjects, alongside the separation of AS and A-levels. In addition, the report found that students from poorer backgrounds and those with special educational needs are less likely to study a broad range of A-levels than their peers. The Royal Society, which commissioned the report, called for a broader education system in the UK.

The Times

If you have any further questions, please ask bromfieldp@hockerill.com

Allergies

The College takes student allergies most seriously and makes every effort to ensure students with allergies are well protected. The Refectory holds a list of those students who have allergies (based on parent information provided to the College Health Centre) and it displays numerous notices inviting students with allergies to seek assistance for their meal choices, but uptake of this by students with allergies is very low.

We would encourage parents of students with dietary allergies or diagnosed intolerances to urge their child(ren) to speak to Refectory staff before choosing their food, to ensure that their meal is allergen-free.

In addition, we would remind parents of students who bring in packed lunches, that the College aims to be a nut-free environment, and parents are therefore reminded not to include nuts or products containing nuts in their child's lunch.

Should you wish to update the College on your children's allergy status, please email: healthcentre@hockerill.com

GENERAL NEWS

Livery Company Hardship Funds

As a school at the heart of a community the pandemic made us acutely aware of the challenges that some families have had to cope with during the past year. Wherever we could we helped families overcome their challenges but there were times when we were not able to provide all that was needed. It has been suggested to us that some of the livery companies have hardship funds that might be available to families in need. If you are connected with any of the livery companies and/or know how to access their hardship funds, we would appreciate hearing from you so that we can connect with families with this potential source of support.

The Children's Commissioner's The Big Ask...and The Big Answer

Earlier this year we shared with you and your children an invitation from the Children's Commissioner in England to complete a survey, to show the true voice of this generation. The results are in and The Children's Commissioner would like to say thank you. Over half a million children responded, the largest survey of its kind in history, and at a landmark moment for young people growing up in this country.

At a critical time, as we emerge from the pandemic, children indicated how the past year has affected them and what needs to happen now to put them at the heart of the recovery. Despite the sacrifices they have made, the majority of children say they are happy.

Children were united – they said that they want to get back to school, to get on, and do well. To have fulfilling lives. Children cared deeply about their family, their communities, their wellbeing and are an ambitious, excited generation. They want to make a contribution to a better world, a greener world, rooted in fairness of opportunity for everyone. The Children's Commissioner is now making sure children are being heard based on the survey results. We thought you would be interested to read the results - especially The Big Answer to students written by the Commissioner - so you can read the full [report](#) here

Issues with SIMS Parent and SIMS Student

We apologise for the problems parents and students have been experiencing with access to SIMS. If you have already registered successfully, you can ignore this message.

ESS now believe that they have made further changes to correct the issues. They have removed the requirement to verify your account when you register, although you will still receive the verification email. Completing verification will allow you to manage and reset your own password going forward.

We will send new invitations to everyone who has been unable to register. Please make sure you use the invitation sent on Friday 24th September as previous ones will no longer work. Please also make sure you follow the instructions in the following documents.

Instructions from ESS can be [found here](#)

Student instructions - a simple version: [Registering with SIMS Student](#)

After trying this, if you are still unable to register, let us know by email to IT@hockerill.com. Screenshots or details about what goes wrong will help us to get you sorted out more quickly.

YEAR 11

Year 11 Geography Students

A reminder that our Year 11 Geography field trip to Juniper Hall FSC in Surrey will take place on **Friday 8th October**, departing the front car park at 7am. Day students will need a packed lunch, boarders will have a packed lunch ordered. The trip will return on Saturday 9th October at approximately 2pm. Please click on the link below which will explain more about the trip, what to bring and our expectations of the students. Parents will be invited via email to a Microsoft Teams Meeting on **Thursday 30th September** between 6-6.30pm where there will be an opportunity for you to ask any further questions regarding the PowerPoint. You can also email me any questions that you may have at garlandf@hockerill.com

[Geography field trip presentation](#)

Mrs F Garland

LIBRARY NEWS

Parents' Reading Group

A very few vacancies have become available for the College Library's Parents' Reading Group. We are a friendly and informal group who meet approximately once a month, at 1130hrs on Saturday mornings.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Sarah Bruce, the Acting College Librarian, for further details, via the Library's email: library@hockerill.com

Requests will be dealt with strictly in order of receipt, and once the places have been filled, unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity to remain on a waiting list.

WE ARE RECRUITING!

We are currently recruiting for several posts:

[Registered Nurse \(Band 5\)](#)

[SENDCo](#)

[Teacher of Mandarin](#)

[Teacher of French](#)

[Teacher of Girls Physical Education \(Maternity Leave\)](#)

HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

HPF launch annual £4000 giveaway!

HPF are delighted to announce the launch of The '250 Club' Grant. Through funds generously donated to the 250 Club, we are able to offer two grants per year, each of £2000, to be shared amongst members of the Hockerill community.

Grant applications are open to teachers, students and clubs. You can apply for anything: new skipping ropes for Boxing Club, a speaker for MUN or even a new initiative you'd like to start up. All requests will be considered.

Application forms are available from Reception or by emailing HPF@hockerill.com. The deadline for applications is **31st October 2021**.

We can't wait to see your ideas!

