

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### COVID-19 vaccine update on second doses for 12 to 15 year olds and booster doses for adults

Following the emergence of the Omicron variant, including confirmed cases in the UK, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has urgently reviewed vaccine response measures.

JCVI now advises that:

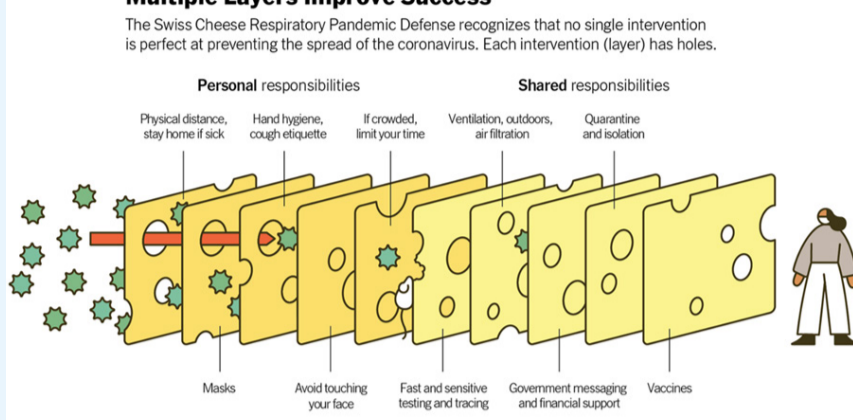
- all adults aged 18 to 39 years should be offered a booster dose, in order of descending age groups. To be given no sooner than three months after the primary course
- all severely immunosuppressed individuals should be offered their booster dose no sooner than three months after completing their primary course of 3 doses
- young people aged 12 to 15 years should receive a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, no sooner than twelve weeks after the first dose

These measures aim to accelerate the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and raise levels of protection across the population, and have been accepted by the government. Vaccinating young people should help to reduce the need for young people to have time off school and should reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools.

Further information on how 12 to 15 year olds will be able to access a second dose of the vaccine, and how adults below the age of 40 will be able to access a booster vaccination, will be provided shortly.

JCVI previously advised that those aged over 40 years and those at higher risk from COVID-19 should be offered a booster. Those eligible can book their appointment on the [NHS website](#)

### Reducing the transmission of Covid-19



Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reeson. Illustration by Rose Wong

### Covid-19 Vaccinations return visit

The School Immunisation Team will be returning to Hockerill to vaccinate those students who were not seen at the first visit. Please find further [information here](#).

Please be aware that you only need to complete the form included in the link if:

- You did not complete a consent form for the first session, and you now wish to give consent
- Your child has turned 12 since the first visit and you wish to consent
- You wish to change your original consent

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 3rd December**  
Carol Service

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All Saints' Church  
(1930hrs)

**Wednesday 8th**  
**December**

Year 13 Parent/Teacher  
Online Consultation

**Saturday 11th**  
**December**

Christmas Show (1900hrs)

**Monday 13th**  
**December**

Christmas Jumper Day  
(further details below)

Christmas Show (1900hrs)

**Tuesday 14th**  
**December**

Christmas Show (boarding  
community only)

**Wednesday 15th**  
**December**

End of term (students  
depart at 1240)

### CONTACT US:

**General**  
**communications to:**

[admin@hockerill.com](mailto:admin@hockerill.com)

**Absence**  
**communications to:**

[absence@hockerill.com](mailto:absence@hockerill.com)

## HOCKERILL NEWS

### Christmas Jumper Day – Monday 13th December

On Monday 13th December we invite students to wear their Christmas Jumper to College for the very small charitable donation of £2.

As usual students and staff were given the opportunity to nominate a charity in which they have a particular personal interest or attachment to receive this money. We always divide the collection equally by four. This year we are pleased to support the Bishops Stortford Food Bank, The RNLI, Dementia UK and The Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Please find links to these charities below:

<https://www.bishopstortfordfoodbank.com/>

<https://rnli.org/>

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>

<https://www.ehaat.org/>

Students may wear their jumper, in addition to, or instead of their blazer. All other uniform rules remain unchanged. All donations of at least £2 must be made by parents using WisePay before the date of the event. It is always very disappointing if a student chooses to wear a Christmas Jumper and participate in this annual event without first asking their parent to make the charitable donation on their behalf via WisePay.

In addition, on Monday 13th December we will serve our annual College Christmas lunch, and the Christmas jumpers always make a festive addition to this eagerly anticipated whole College event.

Finally, may I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas.

### Mr A Whiteley

Head of Lower College

### Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

The Spring Bank Holiday, which usually takes place at the end of May has been moved to Thursday 2 June to accommodate the extended break and the additional Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday will then take place on Friday 3 June, creating a four-day weekend in the UK. As this extra holiday takes place during our half term break, we are required to ensure that school term staff also benefit from this additional day. Therefore, there will be an alteration to the timings at the end of half terms in February and May as follows:

**Friday 11 February – Half term holiday commences (students depart at 1205hrs)**

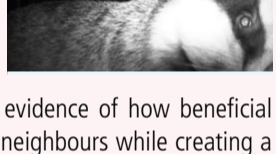
**Friday 27 May – Half term holiday commences (students depart at 1205hrs)**

The above changes will impact signing out times for boarders on both dates. All Houses will remain open until 1400hrs. If this poses any problems for International Boarders, as flights have already been purchased, please do reach out and get in contact with your child's Head of House

### Nurturing Nature – Special Guests!

Launched in September 2021, the Nurturing Nature club provides students with the opportunity to connect with and encourage nature on the College campus, experiences which are widely regarded as beneficial to health and wellbeing. The club also supports the College's aim of achieving accreditation as an EcoSchool, provides links to the curriculum and gives students access to service-related opportunities, a key part of the International Baccalaureate. Core aims of the club are to discover and learn about what lives on the campus and to encourage biodiversity through making improvements to habitats and environments. We will also be documenting our journey on the College's Twitter account @HAECCNature.

Although early in our journey, much positive excitement has spread across the College community with the discovery of a pair of badgers either living on or regularly visiting the campus and we have been fortunate enough to capture some footage of their night-time activity. The feel-good factor felt around the College is evidence of how beneficial experiences of nature can be and students are working intently towards discovering more about our wonderful neighbours while creating a caring and nurturing environment.



## BOARDING NEWS

### International Travel

The Government guidance on travel to England from another country has changed a few days ago, please click on [the link](#) here to view this. The current guidance would mean that students arriving back after Christmas would need to quarantine until they receive a negative PCR test result. The Government plan to review this in three weeks' time and therefore it seems sensible to see how this situation progresses before making any concrete plans. Communication will be sent to parents of international boarders over the Christmas holidays with further clarification. It is likely that the College will arrange onsite PCR testing for international boarders to keep quarantine time to a minimum.

Please find an important update for parents of international boarders [here](#)

## HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

### Congratulations!

We had some fantastic applications for the HPF '250 Club' Grant. It was great to see all the energy, creativity and enthusiasm within the school community!

We are delighted to have awarded a total of £2,400 to the following clubs and individuals:

- The CCF for a new floor for the CCF hut.
- Eco Club for recycling bins around the school campus.
- 'Nurturing Nature' for equipment and resources to help with immersive nature projects.
- ESS/Science department for the creation of a 'biophilic classroom'.
- Young Enterprise for materials to make wooden coasters and tea light holders to raise money for charity.



*Pictured (from left): Mr Gilman on behalf of Nurturing Nature, Mrs Mackenzie on behalf of Eco Club and ESS,*

*The Young Enterprise team, Mr Woods, Principal, and Katie Fraser, HPF.*

We hope that this might inspire more of you to apply for our next round of grants in Spring. We welcome applications at any time (forms available in Reception). Congratulations again to all of the above!

## YEAR 9

### Year 9 Community Project - Public Transport Survey

The Year 9 Community Project is about promoting public transport as a realistic way to cut down on carbon emissions (rather than simply telling people to buy electric cars). The students in Year 9 would like to survey students and parents and collect data about people's use and how much they spend on public transport. They would very much appreciate your time in completing this [short form](#).



## YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

We have purchased access to the Premium version of Seneca (a popular online revision website) for all students in Years 10 and 11. Students in these years will receive an email with their log-in details on Monday 6 December. Those who already have an account set up with their Hockerill email address will find it automatically upgraded as some have noticed already.

There is a good overview of the platform here: <https://help.senecalearning.com/en/articles/2483292-what-is-seneca-learning>

Teachers will be using this to support students, but they should also try to use it routinely as part of their independent study and revision.

It is possible to set up a parent account so you can monitor your child's progress directly, which we would encourage you to do. Please see the links below for more information:

Seneca Parent Platform: <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/parents>

2-Minute Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aUGBuKDoYE>

Step-by-step Tutorial: <https://help.senecalearning.com/en/articles/3990859-how-to-connect-my-parent-account-to-my-child-s-account>

We hope that our students will find this a useful additional resource.

## MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental/vocal lessons during the mock exam periods

Please remember that music lessons will continue throughout the mock exam periods:

**January (Year 11)**

**March (Year 10)**

**April (Year 12)**

It is therefore essential that you check your timetable for any clashes in advance and, if possible, try to arrange a swap with another student. If you are unable to attend your lesson, please inform your teacher in good time. Good luck with your exams.

### Mr O Bond

Director of Music

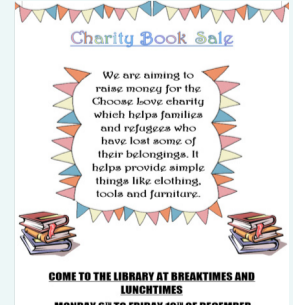
## LIBRARY NEWS

### Books & Biscuits Club Charity Event: 6th to 10th December

As the culmination of this term's project focusing on the plight of refugees, the students from Books & Biscuits Club will be holding a charity book sale and raffle in the Library. Their aim is to raise funds for <https://chooselove.org/>, and <https://www.walkwithamal.org/>, two charities that support and provide aid for child refugees. The students will also be selling bookish made themselves. There will be a range of new and second-hand books available, as well as withdrawn stock of Beano and Phoenix comics. Prices will range from 10p, for second-hand paperbacks, to £2 for new hardback books – so will be something to suit every pocket (cash only).

The event will run at break and lunch times, in the Library, for the whole of next week: 6th to 10th December.

**Thank you for your support.**



## WELLBEING NEWS

Health and Wellbeing support event for Parents and Young People in the local area

Please see [this flyer](#) for an event on Saturday 4th December in Bishop's Stortford. There will be stalls manned by experts on various Mental Health issues including anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders & excessive gaming.

## INTERACT CLUB

Interact club are collecting food to donate to the local food bank. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated and can be left at Reception.

The food bank would appreciate donations of chocolates, sweets, milk, sugar and tinned goods. A full list can be [found here](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

