



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS
☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



27th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the end of week one, term 4. This has been a week of weeks in the education sector with one announcement after another. Each announcement has big implications for the coming weeks and months, but as you would expect from the HBHS team, we are all systems go!

On Monday, we were told about the wider re-opening of schools and, for those that like a good read, this is the link from the Department of Education with all the information in it:

[Schools' coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91121/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance)

I wrote to you all on Tuesday 23rd with the outline plan for return, which we have now completely firmed up and shall be sharing with you on Monday. Please look out for the detailed letter with days, times, and location instructions for lateral flow testing. I would also remind all parents again that we require your written consent to undertake testing on your sons and daughters, so please action as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

On Wednesday we had further announcements from the Secretary of State about funding into school for "covid catch up" and "summer schools" along with an expansion of the national tutoring programme. The impact of the pandemic is wide and varied and there is no one size fits all solution. We will be making sure that every child is reintegrated back to school in a kind and caring manner, mindful of the disparity of experience they may have had. We have a fantastic staffing body with high quality teachers, compassionate and dedicated support teams, and well organised processes already in place. We shall balance the need for getting back to "normal" routines with the extra support that we know will be needed for some. This will be a combination of both addressing social and mental wellbeing concerns, alongside identifying the impact on learning, and ensuring a subsequent gradual recovery.

If that wasn't enough, on Thursday we had the lion's share of the detail that revealed the requirements on school and students for summer examinations for GCSE, Vocational and A level courses. For those with a little time this weekend here is a summary of the outcomes:

[What you need to know about grades in 2021 - Education in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/27/what-you-need-to-know-about-grades-in-2021-education-in-the-media/)

And also, a nice "pictorial" infographic exploring the information here:

[Infographic - how GCSEs AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91121/infographic-how-gcse-as-and-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2021.pdf)

On Friday I wrote to all parents of students in examination year groups with further detailed information. However, once again I will take this opportunity to reassure all parents and students that the school will be on hand to ensure that every student has every opportunity to evidence their abilities and, as such, be awarded a fair and justifiable grade by the examination boards in the summer.



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So, all in all, a busy week but one that has ended with much more clarity than it started, which is pleasing.

Before I leave you to enjoy the sunshine there is one last thing.

We continue to publish information and share ideas to help support the wellbeing of the entire Herne Bay High School family, much of which you will have seen at various times. To enable this to be more accessible we have created an area on our school website that also includes, right at the bottom an option for 'raising a concern' should the information provided not help and further support is needed.

[Health and Wellbeing - Herne Bay High School](#)

Perhaps one last bit of advice with a week to go is to check uniform and equipment is there and ready; I appreciate many shops are not open, but a combination of the big stores and online shopping should enable you to get ship-shape ready for the 8th onwards.

Once again thank you for taking the time to read our communications and of course, for supporting your little (or not so little!) ones. I apologise in advance for the further letters you will receive but they are crucial to ensuring we communicate everything for a safe return.

Take care and have a lovely weekend,

Kind regards

Mr Boyes