



Starting at Herne Bay High School

A Guide for Parents and Carers

A BIG CHANGE....

Moving from primary to secondary is an exciting as well as a daunting time for your child. It is an important milestone and there are new expectations for your child to cope with regarding independent working and self-organisation.



Being concerned about forming new friendships and settling into classes is normal. Some students cope with this change better than others. If your child finds things challenging, it is important that you do not over react but offer a sympathetic ear and advice, as children do settle into school surprisingly quickly. If you have any concerns that your child is finding things difficult then please do not hesitate to contact their Year Manager.

It is difficult to know how to achieve the balance between offering your child too much or too little support.

You know your child best and the school **values the relationship between home and school** to provide the best education possible – if a child understands and knows that their parents and school are supportive of each other and working together then any concerns can be resolved quickly and effectively.

Children's top 10 worries about starting secondary school...

- Not making friends
- Getting Lost
- Homework
- Not being able to do the work
- Getting to school and back (especially if it involves a bus journey)
- Bullying
- Not having the right books and equipment
- Not knowing what to do if there's a problem
- Not getting on with the teachers
- Getting into trouble

If your child contacts you directly regarding an incident please advise them to report it to a member of staff; and then contact either their Year Manager or the lower school team via telephone.



GETTING TO AND FROM SCHOOL....

Many children need support to become more independent and there are a number of key tasks that they must do:

- Getting up on time
- Getting washed, dressed and ready to walk out of the door with everything they need
- Leaving the house to get to the bus-stop on time or getting to school by 8.30 am.
- Being in the right place at the right time at the end of school
- Going straight home
- Knowing what to do if you or they are delayed for any reason



You can support this by:

- Timing the journey to school or the bus-stop
- Making it clear what time you expect your child home, and what to do if they are held up for any reason
- Making sure the child and school have your correct contact details, especially if you change your mobile number or email address
- Agreeing a routine for the morning and after school. When will they pack their bag? Who will make the packed lunch and when?
- Agreeing a bed-time for school days to ensure your child has enough sleep – their learning will be affected by tiredness (i.e. an average child will need about 10 hours per night).



UNIFORM ISSUES....

You must make sure your child knows the school rules regarding uniform (including jewellery, make-up, hoodies and trainers). Help them to take responsibility by:

- Making sure everything is ready to put on the evening before
- Making sure a **full PE kit is taken to school on the day it is needed.**
- **Naming everything**, even shoes – you will be amazed at what children lose!
- Having spares of essentials at home when things get mislaid.
- Ensure they leave the house in the correct uniform.
- Encouraging your child to hang up their uniform straight after school.



BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME....

Many children are concerned about coming to Herne Bay High School because it is a very large secondary school. There will also be an opportunity on the first day in September to tour the school with their mentor.

You can help by:

- **Making a copy of your child's timetable** for display at home with the subjects and classrooms highlighted, so you and your child can refer to it.
- Encourage your child to learn the lessons they have on each day so that they can become independent.
- Make sure they know what to do if they are late or lost.
- Encourage your child to wear a watch.

MOBILE PHONES....

- We encourage your child to take greater responsibility for expensive equipment and their use.
- If your child has a mobile phone, then please make sure they understand the school rules about the use of mobile phones.



HOMEWORK, MICROSOFT TEAMS, BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT....

Your child will need to be **properly equipped** for school, which includes a sensible bag.

- Please check each morning that your child has their **swipe card** as this is essential for purchasing food in the canteen and for printing work. It is a vital piece of equipment that should be brought to school every day.
- All homework will be set by staff using the **Satchel One** platform and/or **Microsoft Teams**. Your child will be issued with a unique login and password to access these. Your child will need to become familiar with Microsoft Teams as teachers will post messages on their class teams and materials to support with learning.
- **Agree a routine for homework:**
 - Start homework the night it is set
 - Start homework after a short break when your child arrives home from school.
 - Provide a **suitable quiet area to work**.
 - Agree with your child that TV, and other activities, will only be possible after homework is done.
 - It is important to establish routines and you must be prepared to invest the time and support your child by setting time aside to review the task and the completed homework.



E-COMMUNICATION....

All communication is electronically via email or SMS (including letters, school reports, absence notifications). Please regularly check your inbox. You can check the school website for upcoming events, policies and information about supporting your child. Please sign up to the My Ed app that provides parents with information on students' attendance, behaviour and achievements. Please ensure the school has your current email address and mobile phone number.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY....

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Start of term (8.30am)

