



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION UPDATE

Friday 11th December 2020

Welcome to my last written update of this term; next week I hope to film a short Christmas message that will be sent to you and available on the school website.

It has been a very busy term, full of concern and worry for many of our students, staff and, I am sure, yourselves. What I can tell you is the overwhelming majority of our students have been fantastic; undertaking all their lessons and being taught exactly what we had planned and they have started to catch up the lost learning from before the summer.

I also write this in the week the very first Covid-19 vaccine, a world first, has been delivered to a 90-year-old patient in England. I hope this is the start of the light at the end of the tunnel, however we still have some difficult months ahead. I do hold out hope that September 2021 will see “normal” school operations resume.

Move to Remote Learning from Monday 14th December

As I am sure you are all now aware, the number of positive cases of Coronavirus linked to the school is increasing significantly. As of Friday 11th December, we have Year 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 in isolation at home. We have, over the previous months developed a fantastic system to deliver high quality “live” education online via Microsoft Teams. I have made the decision, in association with the local authority Area Education Officer (AEO), the Regional Schools Commissioner’s (RSC) office and following advice from the Health Protection Team that from **Monday 14th December ALL teaching for ALL year groups will be online**. The school site will remain open, and if you are a keyworker with a child in year 9 child ONLY that requires access to the school site to support you in your role, then please contact the school via the booking system principal@hernebayhigh.org to book a space by 12.00pm on Monday 14th December.

I can appreciate that this move may be alarming but I am sure you will agree that balancing up the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff, the ability to deliver high quality remote online learning and also supporting your families to stay safe over Christmas, this is the right decision.

Engagement in mentor time, from 8.45 each day along with attendance at all 6 timetabled lesson is expected as if in school and we will be in contact if we feel your son / daughter is not attending virtually.

End of School Term

The last day of term will be **Friday 18th December** with students finishing term 2 **after a whole school assembly starting at 11.50am**.



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Procedure to follow if your child contracts Covid-19 in the last week of term and during holidays:

Last week of term (Saturday 14th to Friday 18th December:

Please contact the school **immediately** if your child tests positive for Coronavirus on absence@hernebayhigh.org or via the MyEd app as normal (messages, absence hotline)

From Saturday 19th December until Monday 4th January

To help us plan for our January return, we ask that you inform the school if your child tests positive for Coronavirus on absence@hernebayhigh.org or via the MyEd app as normal (messages, absence hotline).

However, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace:

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Return to school in January 2021

The start of term 3 is **Tuesday 5th January 2021**. This will be a week A

Year 13

Year 13 will start the term on "exam leave" as they have mock and external exams for the first two weeks. They only need to come into school on the days they have exams.

Years 10,11 & 12

There are a significant number of students in Years 10, 11 & 12 who also have external exams starting the first week back. We want to make sure these exams are not jeopardised by students being forced to isolate. As such, we have made the decision that any student who has an **EXTERNAL** exam will **remain at home** receiving remote education and revision online and will only come back on to school site for their exams.

You will shortly receive a detailed letter from Mr Jones with further information about when students should come in for exams.

All students will be expected to return to school following the current safety process that we have in place (staggered start, masks, one-way systems, lanyards etc.)

Prior to returning to school in January if there are any absence related issues (Covid or otherwise) please let the school know prior to return on absence@hernebayhigh.org or via the MyEd app as normal (messages, absence hotline)



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IMPORTANT: please do not send your child into school on the 5th January if they are isolating at that point, have symptoms, are awaiting a test or are in a household with family who have symptoms or are positive.

I hope that you all have exciting plans for the Christmas period; please remember we are still a tier 3 area, there are restrictions in place and the risks are very real. We want to welcome as many students back in January as we possibly can and that means everyone has to play their part in protecting each other.

This has been a year like no other, a year that has seen great change, great sacrifice, and acts of kindness that revive your faith in humanity. Christmas is the ideal time to reflect on our achievements, to not look at the long journey still ahead with fear, but to see how far we have all come and what we have learnt. I really do hope that within the New Year we will start to be able to re-introduce many of the extracurricular activities, trips and events that we so sorely miss. I will, of course, keep you informed when that is the case.

So, have a lovely, safe, and restful Christmas. Thank you for the continuing support that you have showed and please take care of each other

See you in 2021,

Mr Jon Boyes
Principal

