



# Herne Bay High School

## Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS  
☎ 01227 361221 ✉ [principal@hernebayhigh.org](mailto:principal@hernebayhigh.org)



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We continue to see a significant number of COVID-19 (coronavirus) cases within our wider community and, what is become increasingly apparent, is the number of people testing positive that are presenting with different symptoms other than the main three symptoms published by the NHS – these being:

- (1) a new continuous cough
- (2) a raised temperature
- (3) a loss of taste or smell

In particular, we are seeing headaches, tiredness, runny noses and muscle ache being reported prior to people subsequently testing positive for COVID-19.

Our concern is that students with these symptoms are continuing to come to school and thus, if they subsequently test positive for COVID-19, they have the potential to have transmitted the virus to other students and staff, and they will have compromised the integrity of their year group bubble, with this having a significant impact on a large number of students who might then be sent home by Public Health England to self-isolate.

I am acutely aware of the concern within the community to protect one another at all times, but especially in the run up to the Christmas holidays. Therefore, I ask that we all become even more mindful of any form of illness and take a much more pre-emptive approach than we might normally take.

**In essence, if you or your child has any form of illness that is a change to normal health, particularly those mentioned in this letter, then for the time being, please do not send your child into school.**

I would ask that you immediately contact the school absence line, see how the symptoms develop and request a test if you believe it may be COVID related. If anyone else within your household or wider bubble has already tested positive, it may be sensible to test your child should they show any signs of being unwell no matter what their symptoms.

School absence contact details:

Please telephone 01227 289409

or email us at [absence@hernebayhigh.org](mailto:absence@hernebayhigh.org)



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For reference, here is a reminder of current NHS advice – please pay particular attention to the section that refers to staying at home and isolating at the onset of any symptoms highlighted in blue:

- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate** in line with the information that they will be given when they are informed of the positive result. In addition, **the whole household must self-isolate for 14 days** from the onset of the child's symptoms, or from the day of their test if there are no symptoms. It is vital that you contact us at school to let us know of the situation asap.
- **If somebody in your household has any of the main three COVID-19 symptoms, however slight, they must get tested immediately and any children within the household MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL. Furthermore, it is vital that the whole household self-isolates while waiting for the test result and does not leave home. It is also important that you contact us at school to let us know of the situation asap.**
- **If somebody in your household tests positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate** in line with the information that they will be given when they are informed of the positive result. In addition, the **whole household including all children must self-isolate for 14 days** from the onset of the person's symptoms, or from the day of the test if there are no symptoms. It is vital that you contact us at school to let us know of the situation asap.

Whilst attendance in school is always crucial in terms of quality of education, at this time a sensible approach to managing illness will, I believe, support us all in staying safe and well. I would like to reassure you that the school will take a more favourable stance on absence related to the virus at this time.

Thank you for the continued support

Mr J Boyes  
Principal