



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS

☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are rapidly approaching the end of another year, one which I can safely say has been packed with outstanding school achievements, individual student successes, fantastic collaborations and a significant amount of hard work from both our staff and our students. Herne Bay High School has again provided countless opportunities for all our students to shine, which I am proud to report they have done in abundance.

I often speak about the importance of balancing a rigorous academic education with a rich curriculum that enables every student to shine, no matter what their talents are. This year has seen that develop further. There have been more events, more trips, more competitions, more partnership work and greater engagement in the community than ever before.

During this year we have been crowned District Champions in Year 7 rounders, Year 7 athletics, U13 and U15 athletics. We have students representing their country in Roller Hockey, Archery and Karting. We have artwork on show all summer at the Turner Contemporary Margate, both through the partnership "Rearranging Deckchairs" project and the Turner portfolio competition. We also have work by Ellie Spriggs on show at the Royal Academy, London. Mrs Kelleher, our LRC Manager was one of three finalists of School Librarian of the Year and attended a prestigious award ceremony in London. We celebrated the achievements of our students at GCSE and A level and are proud to say we are the 5th highest performing school in Kent for post 16 performance, no mean feat for a high school! A highlight of the year was the visit by Lord Sir Robert Winston, acclaimed scientist, world leader in IVF and television presenter. He gave up an afternoon to talk to our students about his work and share his passion for science and human development - truly inspirational.

One quality that has shone through so many activities and events this year has been the leadership our students have shown. Be it through the student forum, inter school debating, peer mentoring, sports leaders, primary liaison, partnership work or just supporting younger students in and around the school. This was always a key aspect of our ASPIRE values and it is clear that they are starting to be embedded in school life.

I did mention this last year and will do so again, I do hope that your child has taken up some of the countless opportunities that we offer at HBHS. If they have not, then get them to make a resolution over the summer to push harder, to grasp each opportunity next year and realise how much it adds to their development, friendships and enthusiasm for school when they become more involved.

If you are a follower of our social media streams you will be very up to speed with everything that goes on at HBHS as both our Twitter and Facebook feeds are updated throughout the day with the goings on of school life. We used this platform to share the changes to the school day for next year and received over 15,000 views. As a reminder, we are moving to a two-week timetable and an early end to each Wednesday. This will help us to further improve the education for your child. This move has been unanimously supported by staff and parents and will come into effect from 3rd September 2019.



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Please ensure that your child is at school promptly in the morning as both morning mentor and assemblies start at 8.35. Reminder that the first day of term, Tuesday 3rd September Years 8-11 students are expected at 11.00am. Can I remind you to keep us informed of any changes to the “Wednesday afternoon” arrangements. All the details are on the school website, including transportation updates when available.

The welfare and safeguarding of all students whilst at school is of the utmost importance. We are always reviewing and refining how we can ensure that all students are safe and happy at school. I can assure you that the risk assessment around all our trips and activities is significant as is our site security. Over the summer we are installing controlled access to the site. This will result in the main school vehicle gate and the entrance from car park 4 (the Arena car park) having locked gates with videophone entry. The reason for the change is to ensure we have greater control over who enters the school site, both during the working day and also out of hours. As a consequence if you are coming in visit at these time you will need to “buzz through” to reception to gain entry. I am sure you will agree that this is a welcome addition in ensuring your child remains safe at school.

On a slightly more practical note, I will take this opportunity to mention a few house rules at this time of the year. This does give you plenty of time to embed them at home and ensure that September starts in the fashion that we would expect. Please take note of the following:

Period 7: we are expanding our “period 7” to all year groups. This is an opportunity for students who have not made the most of their learning time and may be working below the level they are capable of. This is not a detention but an opportunity to complete or catch up with work to the standard expected. This runs from after afternoon mentor time until 4.00pm on every day other than a Wednesday. We are also adding a same day after school detention for those students who were referred to a Head of Department from one of their classroom teachers for engagement or behaviour reasons, this will run until 3.45pm each day other than on Wednesday.

All this will all be reiterated to students in assembly in September, and details can be found under the behaviour section of our school website. I hope I can count on your support in ensuring this continues to be effective.

Uniform: there is no change to the uniform policy, but I would draw your attention to the details on the school website with regard to piercings, make up and nails. Please support us in ensuring our focus can remain on teaching. All branded school wear can be sourced from Barnums in Herne Bay.

Equipment: coming to school properly equipped and prepared to learn sets the tone for each day. In morning mentor there will be daily checks on equipment (and uniform) to ensure lessons are focused on learning. Please take the summer break as a good opportunity to check that your child has adequate pens, pencils, ruler, compass, protractor and a scientific calculator in their pencil case. Please note, from September, any student who is not suitably equipped for school will receive a same day lunchtime detention.

Communication between home and school: I wrote to all parent last year and explained in detail our methods on ensuring that you are kept informed of your child’s progress, please feel free to re-visit this letter which can be found in the “letters from the Principal” link on the school website.



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In a large school some change in staffing is inevitable. This summer we say sad farewells to Mr Blaxill who has been teaching Technology at HBHS for 21 years, to Mr Jones our Head of Drama and to Mrs Pottle who is retiring after many years of service. We also say farewell to Mrs Tappenden (Science), Mrs Berry (Maths), Mr Halls (Science) along with our Senior Science Technician Mrs Phillips and

Science Technician Miss Selwyn. Many of you will also be sad to say goodbye to our long standing College Manager Mrs Church who is retiring. I am sure you will join me in wishing all our departing staff a fond goodbye and wish them well for the future.

I am pleased to say that we have been busy recruiting and say a warm welcome to Mrs Montague (Maths/Science), Miss Redhead (Maths), Mr Gambrell-Jarman (PE), Mr Lyden (History), Miss Price (Psychology/Science), Mr Tipping (History), Mrs Santer (Science), Miss Gallantree (Geography) and Mrs Cobb (Head Drama) all of whom will add an extra dimension to our already very strong staffing contingency.

I look forward with eager anticipation our two results days on the 15th and 22nd August where we can celebrate the hard work of our students. Equally to the 3rd September where we formally welcome all our new year 7 students into the HBHS family. So, without further ado, I wish every one of you a safe and happy summer, find time to enjoy being with your children and have a restful break. See you in September for another cracking year!

With best wishes

Mr Jon Boyes
Principal