



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



10th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Term 3 seems to have passed in the blink of the eye with the half term break beginning this Friday. This affords us all the opportunity to pause and reflect, but to also look forward and prepare for all that lies ahead. For Year 11 and Year 13 this is very much focused on exam practice and preparation for the GCSE and A level exams that will definitely go ahead.

Summer Examinations

On Monday of this week, all the main examination boards published how they are going to “mitigate” against the differential impact of covid by sharing advance information in most subjects ready for summer examination. (Links to the DfE advice page below)

[Subject-by-subject support for GCSE, AS and A level students in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022)

The advance material is being released to help focus studies ahead of exams in subjects including Maths, Sciences, English, History and Geography, but without providing the exact questions that will appear. This will help students to prioritise those topics in their revision, particularly if they are using past paper questions. Additionally, examiners have also been asked to be more generous than in pre-pandemic exams when setting grade boundaries. It is likely that we will see grades awarded that, on average, are somewhere between the nationally inflated grades of 2021 and pre-pandemic 2019. What this means for your children is that they need to fully understand that exams WILL go ahead and that they MUST prepare thoroughly. However, in most subjects, they will have a better idea of what may be on the exam papers. Resulting grades should be awarded favourably, ensuring that lost learning does not disadvantage progression on to the next phase of education or work. So please encourage plenty of exam practice, knowledge revision, attendance at school and additional support sessions (a full examination and revision timetable will be published to students after ½ term).

Years 7 to 10 internal assessments

Commencing in the week of the 28th of February, Years 7 to 10 will be undertaking in-class assessments to monitor progress made. These are very important assessments and should be approached with the same vim and vigour as Year 11 and Year 13 approach their exams. Each subject has produced and published a revision guide (available here: [Supporting your child - Herne Bay High School](#))

Face Coverings

As per my communication on Friday 4th February, from Monday 21st the wearing of face coverings on school site will be purely by personal choice. I also hope that we are starting to see the back of the COVID impact in schools. I would absolutely advocate the continuation of twice weekly testing throughout half term and definitely on Sunday 20th February prior to return to school on Monday 21st.

Covid 19 Immunisations

All parents will have received communication from the Kent Schools Immunisation Team offering the opportunity to receive a second covid 19 vaccination on school site on Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd February. If you would like to ensure your child receives their first or second vaccination, please complete the consent form that was sent by the Immunisation Team.



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Staffing changes

Our Head of Lower school, Mrs Jones will commence maternity leave after February half-term. Mr Jones (Vice Principal) will be taking on the interim role as Head of Lower School and the three Deputy Heads of Lower School will retain responsibility for each year group: Miss Martin for Year 7, Mr Brown for Year 8 and Mr Beeson for Year 9. I would like to ask that you please continue to contact your child's year manager in the first instance:

- Year 7 – Mrs Verge g.verge@hernebayhigh.org
- Year 8 – Mrs Barnes c.barnes@hernebayhigh.org
- Year 9 – Mrs Sparks l.sparks@hernebayhigh.org

We also say goodbye to Mr Yson in Physics and Mr Jarvis in MFL, who are both moving on to pastures new.

I hope to see all students back bright and breezy on Monday 21st February which is a week A. In the meantime, have a lovely half term and continue to stay safe.

With kind regards,

Mr Boyes
Principal