



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



20th January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Term 3 week 2 and our regular update from the coalface!

Another busy but very productive week, attendance remains high and the vast majority of our 1670 students are enjoying and engaging fantastically in their education. In addition to our day-to-day business, we had a busy Year 8 parent evening on Wednesday, a face-to-face parent event for our October ½ term New York Trip and students offsite visiting Canterbury Christ Church University. We also welcomed many external students from across local schools who are interested in joining our Dance Academy in September. I am sure you will agree that trying to maintain this rich curriculum is vital for the young people in our care.

Covid Update

As you are probably aware, the government announced on Wednesday 19th January that the wearing of masks in classrooms is no longer a statutory requirement. They have, at this time, retained the need to wear a mask both in communal spaces but also in confined busy spaces.

As already mentioned in my previous letter, the wearing of masks at Herne Bay High School has really helped us maintain a level of infection that has enabled the school to continue to function almost normally. As such, we will **continue with the current measures we have in school, including the wearing of masks in classrooms, until at least Friday 28th January**. At this point we will reflect on our in-school infection rates and make a decision for Monday 31st January onwards. I am sure you will agree that maintaining a safe working environment in school is a priority and we believe that this measure will help us maintain this at this point in time.

As a reminder, if your child tests positive for Covid-19 they must complete 5 full days of isolation; the day symptoms start or the day the test is taken is counted as day zero. A student may return to school after receiving negative lateral flow tests on day 5 and 6 (not day 4 and 5) and must have two negative tests before they return. Students cannot return if they have a high temperature. The following infographic from the NHS on the following page is a helpful guide:



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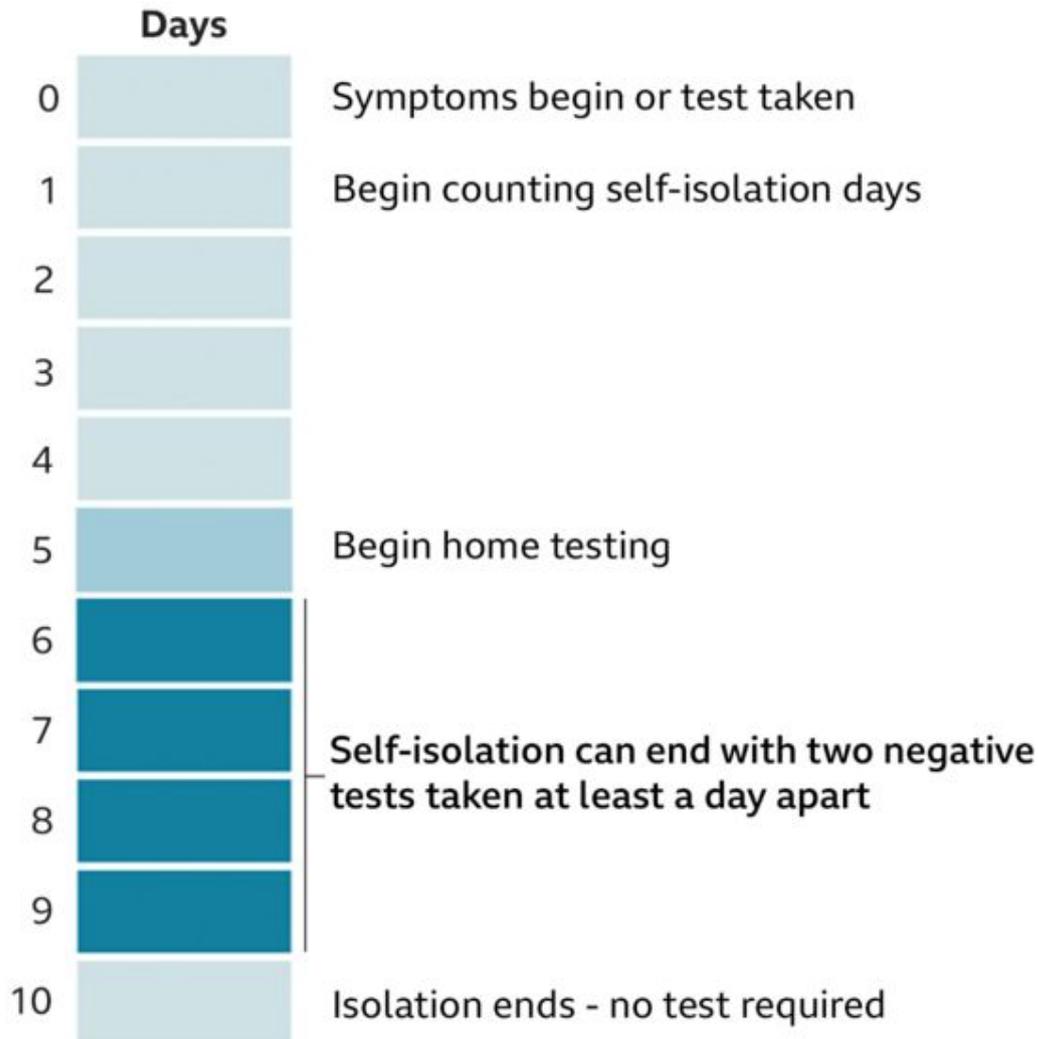
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How five-day isolation rule works in England



Source: NHS





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Summer Exams (and Mock Exams)

I now feel it is almost certain that the summer series of external exams, both at GCSE (Year 11) and A Level (Year 13) will go ahead. I anticipate that the government will provide some level of mitigation such as a slight reduction in examined content which we expect to be announced just before ½ term. Therefore students, parents, and carers need to realise the importance of hard work, exam preparation and engaging in the school preparation programme as this will be critical to achieving good outcomes in these exams.

Starting on the 31st of January, **Year 11** will be undertaking a second round of **mock exams**, these are high stakes exams and will be used to ensure your children are prepared thoroughly for the actual exams starting in May (which is not that many weeks away). Please continue to encourage, cajole, challenge and pursued them to keep it going; hard work at home as well as at school will pay dividends in the long run; communication is always open through the upper school team. We also have a Year 13 consultation on the 23rd of February and a further Year 11 consultation on Wednesday 2nd of March and invitations for these will be sent out nearer the time.

As always thank you for your continued support, have a lovely weekend and continue to stay safe and well.

With kind regards,

Mr Boyes
Principal