



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS

☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first of my regular Friday communications; all part of the streamlining of how we communicate and keep you informed. I am going to use this first letter to cover many aspects of how the planned changes have settled in and how you can all continue to help us make it a success.

Attendance

As we near the end of the first full week back, I am really pleased to report that our attendance and engagement over the week has been fantastic. Contrary to the national picture where they report 89% attendance, we are up at 97%+. This is a reflection of the trust you all have in us, the measures we have in place and the system to reintegrate your children back to school. I continue to ask you to support us in maintaining this excellent attendance. Please continue to be mindful of illness and the three COVID symptoms; if your child displays any of those three, they should remain at home and follow PHE guidance. Please see page 2 & 3 of the schools "COVID policy document" available from our website at <https://www.hernebayhigh.org/information/coronavirus/full-re-opening-of-school-site-to-students/>

Arrival and departure to school

As each day passes, the organisation for arrival and departure is becoming more finely tuned with students predominantly arriving at the correct times and at the correct location. We are continually re-iterating the need to arrive as closely as possible to the specified entrance time which helps reduce unnecessary gatherings. It is obviously very busy in and around the school between 8.20 and 8.50 and then again from 3.10 to 3.30

<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Departures</u>
8.30-8.40 am Year 7 - Bungalow Gate (Gate 1)	3.05pm Year 7 - Bungalow Gate (Gate 1)
8.30-8.40am Year 8 - Delivery Gate (Gate 2)	3.05pm Year 9 - Stillwater Gate (Gate 3)
8.40-8.50am Year 9 - Stillwater Gate (Gate 3)	3.10pm Year 8 - Delivery Gate (Gate 2)
8.40-8.50am Year 10 - Bungalow Gate (Gate 1)	3.15pm Year 10 - Bungalow Gate (Gate 1)
8.30-8.40am Year 11 - Stillwater Gate (Gate 3)	3.15pm Year 11 - Stillwater Gate (Gate 3)
before 8.30am Year 12/13– enter by any gate	By 3.00pm (from period 6) Year 12 & 13 are dismissed via any gate

Uniform & Equipment

I have been really impressed by the way students have presented themselves so far. Even with a few issues with the uniform supply chain, very few students are not fully kitted out. At the moment on the days students have PE and Dance, they are nearly all coming in PE kit which is working well and long may the summer weather continue. I do appreciate that for some students this can be three times per week and perhaps as the weather changes could lead to concerns over wet / dirty kit being worn to school. We are continually reassessing how we manage this without compromising these activities and will keep you abreast of changes should they come into force.



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What is very important is to ensure that your child has everything they need for their lessons each day. As such they should have a checklist:

- 1) Pencil case with pens / pencils eraser, sharpener, coloured pencils etc
- 2) A calculator (critical for all Year 9 to 11 students)
- 3) Any books they need for that day (including textbooks, such as the English Anthology)
- 4) Exercise books, homework (although much is handed in online)
- 5) Their lanyard
- 6) A suitable school bag to put it all in

I thank you in advance for your support in helping to ensure your child is equipped for school.

Behaviour and attitudes

I am pleased to say that the understanding, compliance and attitude from the students to all the change has been outstanding. Almost without exception it is obvious that they clearly recognise the importance of the measures in place and are following them brilliantly. It is important that this continues and therefore I ask that you continually remind them of the reasons for it all, the expectations we have and that taking personal responsibility is critical in maintaining standards. In particular, the need to try wherever possible to keep their own social distance, both in and beyond school (you can remind yourselves from our weblink above). To further support and ensure continuing the high standards of behaviour, from Monday 14th September year group detentions will commence. You will receive a text home by 2.45pm if your child receives this behaviour intervention.

The coming weeks & months

As I am sure you are aware, the national picture is not looking as positive as it was and the prevalence of the virus does appear to be increasing. At the moment, Kent and our coastal strip is still a relatively safe area with low infection rates. I anticipate that the measures we have in place at school will be here for a significant period, but I do not believe we will be back to the situation where schools are closed. We are closely monitoring everything within school, the local area and the national guidance to ensure we continue to do what is right and by that I mean right for our children, staff and for you as parents and carers. Please do not feel the doom and gloom in the press should make you question the need and place of education; children should be in school learning.

As ever, please keep up to date with all our daily activities on Facebook, Twitter and the school website.

I look forward to this continued communication and shall update you further next week

With kindest regards,

Jon Boyes
Principal