



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



18th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome to my second Friday update. I am pleased to report that students and staff are coping fantastically; high quality learning is taking place and students are settled, calm and enjoying school. Exactly what we would expect at HBHS!

Face coverings

As I am sure you will agree, the school should put the health and safety of all its students and staff at the forefront of its planning and it is important to me that we ensure we are doing the right thing. Over the last two weeks there have been a few changes that we need to reflect upon with regard to our school operation:

- 1) The prevalence of the COVID infection nationally is on the rise, with greater measures being put in place on a much wider scale.
- 2) Further research has been published on the impact/severity of transmission and for older children who are 16+ placing them in a similar risk category to adults.
- 3) Two weeks in, we can reflect on how our COVID plans and risk assessments are working. We have seen a significant number of staff and Post 16 students needing to move across the "year bubbles" to enable them to learn and teach.

As such, I am now recommending that both staff and Post 16 students wear a face covering as they move around the school site. This will further protect all students, staff and families and add an additional layer to our already very stringent plans. This will not alter the protocol in lessons where face coverings are only required in specific circumstances for a few staff and students. I am sure you will welcome this additional safety precaution.

Coping with a positive COVID test

Currently we have had no member of the school community test positive, something that I hope continues. However, we must be prepared and ready to act to safeguard everyone. I have today published on our school website our "Positive COVID Protocol":

<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/information/coronavirus/>

This details the exact process we will go through to ensure that all students and staff are protected in the case of a positive test. It is important to draw your attention to one key aspect, the idea of a "close contact".

A close contact, as defined by Public Health England, is a person that has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). A close contact can be:

1. people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
2. sexual partners
3. a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
 - a. being coughed on
 - b. having face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - c. having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - d. contact within one metre or longer without face-to-face contact

continued/.



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4. a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
5. a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Should we have a positive case, any staff member or student deemed to be a close contact under the criteria above, will be required to go home and self-isolate for 14 days. The decision on close contact will be made from the seating plans and timetable over the previous days.

Attending School

In these difficult times, I would ask you to ensure that your children come to school as any further time missed will impact upon their learning and progress. I also thank you for working with us to make the start and end to the school day run smoothly, your continued help in ensuring all children are at school on time would be much appreciated. We have shared some excellent advice from the NHS on our social media channels giving details on when to stay at home, when to go to school and the key symptoms to look out for. This has now been placed on the school website but can also be found here:

<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/assets/Documents/Attendance/School-Attendance-and-general-illness.pdf>

Remote learning

When a student is not in school due to a COVID related issue (self-isolating, waiting for a test etc.) we have ensured they will have access to a library of learning. This will be available on Microsoft Teams, the platform we are now using, which every student has access to. This library is in the files section of their classes and they will see all the documents that the teacher has used in lessons. Over the next few weeks staff will continually show students how to access this information.

Events

With the likelihood of the current school operation being in place for the long term, I have unfortunately made the decision to scale back on most of the events that would normally take place. This is because face to face meetings with a wider audience will increase risk significantly. Events planned this term such as the Year 7 welcome evening, our main Year 6 open events and parent evenings will all be impacted. Where possible we will move to virtual events and as we approach the scheduled dates, we will write to let you know how you can access these. There are currently no sporting fixtures taking place and we are in the process of investigating the viability of a very limited form of extra-curricular activity. It is our intention to re-instate as much as we possibly can as soon as we are allowed by PHE guidance.

Daily operational updates

I am sure you are aware of our MyEd App that allows parents and carers to see what is going on in school. MyEd allows you to view key information about your child's school information including attendance, achievement and behaviour points, school reports and letters sent home. The app provides you with the facility to send and receive FREE messages to and from school via your mobile device. You can also make payments to your child's cashless catering account and pay for school trips.



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If you have not got MyEd, it can be found in both the Apple and Google App store and there is more information at <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/> We are going to use this more widely to support our reporting home over this period of restriction and it is a great vehicle for starting a conversation with your child about their day at school.

For those of you that are using MyEd already and have been concerned over points being added for going to the toilet, can I reassure you this is not a negative; it is just how we are using the system to track and trace students, it is not used in any form of behaviour tracking.

Uniform

Whilst we remain under the tighter COVID restrictions that preclude changing on site, please can I remind you of the Uniform that **MUST** be worn on days when your child has PE/Dance/Drama.

- For **Drama** lessons, students must wear their normal school uniform.
- For **PE** lessons, students can come into school in their standard HBHS branded school PE kit - no variations are allowed. (full details on website <https://www.hernebayhigh.org/our-school/uniform/>)
- For **Dance** lessons, all students are to wear their standard HBHS branded school PE kit to school and around school. However in Year 10 and Year 11, students may have particular dance course T-shirts or dance tights – these Year 10 and Year 11 students are permitted to wear this dance attire **under** their standard HBHS branded school PE kit which they can change into when they are in the dance area.

Students wearing skirts **MUST** wear either their school skirt or their HBHS branded school tracksuit over the top of a skirt at all times, other than when they are in their PE lessons.

We continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive their education and I sincerely hope that the government will help us to do so. Please continue to talk to your child about taking personal responsibility for everyone's safety and about trying to maintain social distancing as well as their own daily organisation; we do find that every little bit does help.

Your support in all matters is hugely welcome and until next week, take care.

Mr J Boyes
Principal