



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



1st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe the summer has passed and we are, at last, going to be able to welcome students back onto school site this week. By then it will be 23 weeks of change that we have gone through; certainly time to try and get back to normal.

You will have read much over the last few weeks about the return to school, the issues of a second wave, the concerns over local lockdowns, the discussions on face covering in school and the concerns, quite rightly, from vulnerable students and families.

I spent time in school last week ensuring that the measures we told you about before the summer have been undertaken and implemented. I am pleased to confirm that we are ready and the school is a safe place for your child to enjoy their education once again.

There will be many changes that we will all have to adhere to, and at times, this will seem over the top and even perhaps a little draconian compared to what you and your families have experienced over the summer. It is very important to me that everyone understands that every single detail of our plan is there for a reason and that is for the protection of you and your loved ones. So, when we say to parents/carers 'please don't come onto school site unless by appointment' or 'please make sure your child has a bag to carry all their own equipment' it is for a very valid reason.

The details of what will be happening is all in the document on our website at:

<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/information/coronavirus/full-re-opening-of-school-site-to-students/>

where you will also find the COVID policy that details specific updates to the existing policies we follow. In particular, it gives precise information on what we will be doing should a suspected or confirmed case of COVID affect someone in our community,

Rest assured, there will be additional training and information shared with students on their first day and this will then be sent home to you via text/email and I ask that you please talk through it all again with your child as there is much to learn.

A few key pieces of information that will help your child get ready

- Wear normal school uniform
- Please bring in a breketime snack as no food will be served at this time
- Ideally bring a packed lunch as the restaurant will only serve grab and go food that is consumed in year group areas.
- Please have an adequate bag that can carry books, files, pens/pencils and kit. No lockers are available and no equipment can be shared.
- Please remember that we are encouraging students to walk to school where possible. If you are planning to bring your child by car you will need to drop your them in the near vicinity to school and then they can walk onto site. The facility to drop off and pick up on school premises is currently not available.
- If travelling by public transport, I would encourage you to read the detailed information leaflets that have been provided by KCC and SouthEastern to clarify what is required on buses and trains. I have placed these on our website (link above).



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With reference to starting school, please refer to detailed letter sent to you in July but to remind you days and times:

Thursday 3rd Year 7 between 8.30 and 8.40

Year 9 between 9.30 and 9.40 (Gate 3)

Year 11 between 10.15 and 10.25 (Gate 3)

Friday 4th Year 7 between 8.30 and 8.40 (Gate 1)

Year 8 between 9.30 and 9.40 (Gate 1 / 3)

Year 10 between 10.15 and 10.25 (Gate 3)

Monday 7th Year 12 between 8.50 and 9.00 (pedestrian gate by main entrance)

Year 13 between 10.55 and 11.05 (pedestrian gate by main entrance)

Year 7 to 11 are all in school, staggered times and gates as per letter and information sent home during induction week

At the current time we are not in an area of “government concern” regarding the infection rate for coronavirus, and therefore all the latest updates about the need for face coverings, rota systems and enhanced measures are not applicable. However we are moving into uncertain times as the winter approaches and all school across the county return and things may change and we will, as we have always done, keep you completely informed and updated on anything that we may need to do differently.

As it stands, our stance on face coverings is that either staff or students can wear them if they feel it reassures them, but they are not mandatory at the current time. Face coverings can be either medical face masks or purchased/homemade cotton face covering. Scarves, bandannas etc. are **not** permitted. Please do continue to follow additional guidance for public transport and entrance to shops so that you remain protected.

The one aspect of our fabulous and detailed plan to remain safe that we have less control over is the need for EVERY SINGLE PERSON on school site to follow and adhere to it 100%. That means following the one-way systems, not going into other year areas, following all instructions, undertaking excellent personal hygiene, sanitising, handwashing and adhering to the strict 2m social distancing from staff, taking personal responsibility for all actions; need I go on. I do expect that all students will know the seriousness of coronavirus and will be fantastic, but it may be worth re-iterating this before your child returns this week.

We all look forward to welcoming everyone back after such a long gap, it will be different, but it will be great. I am confident that within a week everyone will have settled down and got used to our “new normal”

As always, take care and stay safe and I shall be in contact again soon.

With kind regards,

Jon Boyes
Principal