



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



20th November 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

A warm welcome to you all and to the end of the second week of term 2. Time seems to be passing by very quickly; just think, we only have 4 weeks until we break for Christmas on the 18th of December!

We have now been operating for 8 weeks of this academic year under COVID restrictions. I am pleased to report again to you how well your sons and daughters have embraced the changes and continue to support the wellbeing of everyone. The wearing of face coverings has been taken in their stride and almost, without exception, they are being worn as per our mantra "when not in class, wear a mask". I would make the plea that you do ensure students have their mask with them in their blazer or coat pocket and encourage their wider use if they encounter risk situations on their way to and from school. It is encouraging and testament to both our detailed planning and impressive COVID safety measures, along with the compliance of all staff and students that at the time of writing, I can still tell you that we remain up and running, delivering quality education and have limited absence.

As per my regular communication, it is a good opportunity to share a few operational messages.

Year 10: This is the only year group that have been impacted by a positive COVID case. Whilst the decision to isolate a year group is a very difficult one, it is always done in the interests of safety to all our community. To minimise any impact on their learning we have continued to deliver "live" remote lessons as per student timetable, morning and afternoon "live" mentor sessions and in effect enabled full continuity of education for all. What has been fantastic is how students have bought into this with recorded attendance in virtual lessons being just under 90%. Year 10 parents may well have even received normal truancy texts if their child was not signed into mentor time at 8.45am. We look forward to welcoming them back into school safe and sound on Wednesday 25th November.

Should we need to isolate another year group at any time please expect the same level of remote education and please ensure your child is accessing it daily on Teams

Remote learning: Whilst "live teams lessons" have been set up when either a full class group or year group are required to isolate, this will not be practicable for when occasional absence happens. In this instance, all teaching materials are made available on the class notebook area in Teams. Our expectation is that the same level of high-quality behaviour we see in school is replicated whilst undertaking a remote lesson.

Free School Meals: We have now been able to access vouchers for families with students on free school meals. If you are now isolating due to COVID we will be in contact and sending vouchers that can be redeemed at local supermarkets.



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Road Safety: We are moving into deepest darkest winter; therefore, many students will find themselves travelling to and from school in reduced light. We will be reminding everyone about road safety but please reiterate the need to be careful on unlit roads, sensible when crossing main roads and general thoughtfulness within the community as they undertake their journeys. Can I also ask that if you are dropping off on the Bullockstone Road, please **DO NOT** stop right outside school. We have had two near misses in the last 10 days where a parent's car has created a blind spot on the road leading to a heart stopping moment for a student and member of staff.

Reducing the spread of COVID: Please will parents/carers ensure that if your child is self-isolating, either as they have been identified as a **close contact** of a **positive case** inside or outside of school, or indeed they have **tested positive themselves**, they **do not leave the house and that they carry out their period of self-isolation in line with the guidance.**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

As such, and in relation to our school's present circumstances, no Year 10 students should be leaving their house until Wednesday 25th November 2020, which is the day that their period of self-isolation finishes and also the day that they are due back at school.

In addition, I should like to detail another key element of the guidance regarding the approach that must be **followed should a member of a household** display COVID-19 symptoms, so to clarify:

- every member of a household must isolate immediately if anyone in that household develops COVID-19 symptoms. As such, parents/carers **must not send their children to school if someone in their household is symptomatic or indeed if any member of the household has requested a test or is waiting for a test result.**

ASPIRE: As you may be aware, we have mantra that is to "**ASPIRE** to be the best you can be". The ASPIRE acronym encapsulates the qualities of **Ambition, Self-belief, Perseverance, Integrity, Respect and Excellence**, all of which we believe contribute to a rounded education and underpins our commitment to getting the very best from your sons and daughters. As part of our continued focus on **Ambition**, we are keen to reach out to any of our past students who would be prepared to share how their lives have progressed since leaving Herne Bay High School. As such, if you are a former student and you would be willing to share your experiences, could I please ask you to email the school at alumni@hernebayhighs.org then we will contact you for further details. In addition, if you are in contact with any past students from HBHS, please pass on the message in order that they may consider as to whether they might want to get in touch to share their stories.

Summer Examinations: Unfortunately, we have no further clear guidance as to how the government and examination boards are approaching GCSE and A level examinations. I promise as soon as we do, I will let you know.



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Donating to food bank: You may be interested to know that once again HBHS staff are donating to the local food bank. This is something that was started during lockdown and feel that really supports those in the community that are struggling in these difficult times.

Let us all hope that we are starting to turn the corner. The latest information on vaccines is really promising and I believe gives us faith that we may start to see some normality by the summer term. As ever, please continue to look after yourselves and your families

With kind regards,

J Boyes
Principal

