



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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Dear Parents / Carers

Here we are at the end of another good week at Herne Bay High School. In these difficult times, being creative and solutions focussed really does help overcome problems. In November of any normal year, we would have welcomed hundreds of students and families onto site to participate in our Post 16 information evening. This is the event that helps Year 11 students and their parents choose their Post 16 pathway and enables them to explore the vast range of subjects we offer. In its place we have a fantastic “virtual event” that launched on Wednesday 24th. Please go to [Post 16 Open Evening - Herne Bay High School](#) and take a look at what we have to offer. This is just one of the ways we are continuing to function as a school by doing things slightly differently.

I have written many times updating you all on how we are faring with regards to Coronavirus. As I write on this damp Friday morning, we currently have Year 9 and Year 13 isolating at home and consequently receiving all their education virtually. It is a pleasure to report that feedback from many parents has been overwhelmingly supportive of our remote learning. For those who are at home, it does also give you the opportunity to see how well your child is engaging with their learning and even support or learn something new with them.

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday we were informed that we will be a Tier 3 area and probably likely to stay in this Tier for a while. This has far reaching implications for how we conduct our lives beyond school but also focusses our minds and keeps us reflecting on our COVID-19 safe working environment. The safety of every person, student, staff and parent is always at the forefront of my mind. The one aspect that all the renowned scientists and epidemiologists tell us keeps us safe is to keep our social distance. One thing we are doing slightly differently in school from now is asking all of our learning support staff to keep greater social distance from students as, even with full PPE, the risk of prolonged close contact is not conducive to safety. If your child is used to having very close support, they will still have that person in the room, they will still be able to access support, but it will look a little different. I trust you understand the rationale for this and fully support the change.

To try and reduce the burden of information we send you, all letters and information with regards to COVID-19 cases and the action we are taking are held on our website. We will only write directly to you when you need to either take direct action or to clarify when you are safe. You can see everything we have undertaken here [Full Re-Opening of School Site to Students - Herne Bay High School](#)

Free School Meals

The government has announced that all families eligible for Free School meals will be supported over the Christmas break; thanks go to footballer Marcus Rashford for pushing the government on this issue. We will be using our own provider to supply vouchers to all eligible families which means that you will be able to redeem them in a local supermarket; it also means we can support those families that may struggle to access the KCC online system. We will be in contact shortly with your vouchers.

Many parents will be anxious about the Christmas holidays and the prospect of having to isolate over the Christmas period. The government have been very explicit about this and directly informed schools not to close early. We will continue to monitor the situation and do everything in our power to help ensure Christmas for everyone can be safe. To support this, I do urge that everyone continues to follow the national guidance especially **Hands, Face & Space**.

As always, have a lovely weekend, look after yourselves and your families and we look forward to a safe and secure run in to the end of term

Kind regards

Jon Boyes
Principal