



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS

☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to what we all hoped would be a slightly more normal term in school. I trust you have had a good break and are ready for the start of school on Monday 9th November.

Sadly, with the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday evening, we are now moving back to a month-long national lockdown. However, the government have been clear that schools shall remain open throughout.

The updated guidance that we must now adhere to can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_source=4%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

I am sure you will agree that the information shared by the government regarding the national picture is more worrying. We have seen the infection rate, the hospitalisation rate and sadly, the death rate increase nationally over the past few weeks. Kent has also seen an increase with East Kent being one of the higher risk areas. Whilst we have been fortunate within Herne Bay, we must all realise how serious this is and act accordingly.

Over the past 6 weeks we have made so many changes at school to ensure your children are safe and well and that they continue to receive an excellent education. As you have come to expect from HBHS, we will ensure this continues.

However, considering the changing picture and government advice, I ask that you take note of the following points and discuss them with your sons and daughters prior to them returning next week.

Face Coverings: From Monday 9th November, and in line with the instruction from the government, we expect every child and adult to wear a face covering whilst on school site; this can be removed once seated in the classroom to enable teaching to continue effectively. Effectively follow the mantra "**when not in class wear a mask**". The single exception will be at lunchtime if your child is on the Astro; then they can remove it. If there is a medical reason that makes the wearing of a face covering a difficult thing to do, please write to your Head of Year with the information so we can act on it.

Ventilation: A second key part of reducing any viral load is good ventilation. We shall, weather permitting, be keeping a good airflow through school. This will make school cooler than normal. To ensure that everyone is comfortable we are allowing the wearing of **coats, scarfs and gloves within the classroom**. I ask that you ensure your child has a warm coat to wear to school (this does not mean a hoodie).

Pre-existing conditions: the updated guidelines are very clear about their expectation and states: *Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place.*

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.



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Lanyards: the year group coloured lanyards were a fantastic addition last term and really supported our COVID safe measures. Please ensure that your child has their lanyard and remind them to wear it at all times, especially as face coverings are being worn. If the lanyard has been mislaid, then please ensure that a £1 coin is brought in next week and we will replace it.

Visitors to site and extra-curricular activities: during the period of lockdown we shall be restricting any visitors to site in line with guidance which states *"Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary."* There will also be no after school activities during the period of lockdown.

To be able to continue to run the school safely, it is critical that all staff and students understand the importance of the measures in place. Nothing will work and the lockdown will be fruitless if we do not adhere to them 100% of the time. In line with our risk assessment, we do reserve the right to send any child home should their actions put the health and safety of others at risk and this would include refusal to wear a face mask, refusal to follow the year group zones and one way systems and deliberately coughing / spitting at another person. Full details are in our behaviour policy which can be found on our website under the policies section.

I appreciate that this all sounds very dramatic, but we must work together to stay safe. I am hoping that we make it through term 2 with no positive COVID cases within the school community and I ask that you remain particularly vigilant to the signs which I am sure we are all aware of by now. Please contact the school immediately if you think that anyone in the family is symptomatic or has been a close contact to someone testing positive.

We will do everything in our power to make day to day school life as normal as possible and to ensure education continues uninterrupted. As such, we are still running our non-uniform day on Friday November 13th which will support a range of charities including Children in Need. Can I ask that a £1 donation is brought in to school in cash, this will then be handled safely.

We have a fabulous staffing body who will support our wonderful students to continue to develop, grow and prepare for their futures. We must try and all stay positive, be there to help and support one another and make sure our community comes through the pandemic stronger and better than ever.

As always take care, stay safe and look after your families.

Mr Boyes
Principal