



# Herne Bay High School

## Specialist Sports College

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6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to another week! We are rapidly approaching the end of the summer term and the end of another school year. This has been, and continues to be, a very complex, confusing and difficult second half of the 2019/20 academic year. My heart goes out to the current year 11 and year 13 students, some of whom will not return to HBHS but move onto pastures new without a final farewell. Come September, we are hoping to explore ways we can celebrate with them, albeit belatedly. In the last week, we have had guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and we have had a consultation from the exam regulator Ofqual regarding both exams for 2021 and resit opportunities for 2020. I am sure you have also all been following the significant changes in society, with the further reassignment of lockdown, and the inevitable “spikes” that are starting to occur. Before I share my thoughts on all of that I wanted to update you on some items:

**Remote Learning:** We continue to develop our remote learning with the premise being that all students will be able to hear their teachers voices now. If you have had an opportunity to see what your son/daughter is receiving on a weekly basis then I am sure you will agree that it enables them to “learn” remotely as they are being taught, not being set work. Regardless of where we are in September, this structure is embedded and stands us in good stead.

**Reporting back to you:** Four weeks ago, we sent home an “engagement report” and the majority of you felt this very supportive and helpful in understanding, from the perspective of the teachers, how engaged your son/daughter was in their work. However, I am aware that a few felt it added greater stress to an already difficult situation. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July we will be emailing you the latest report of this academic year, reporting on engagement in June. When I wrote to you all on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, I clarified what the report tells you and how it should be used; please remind yourself of this (excerpt below) and also the letter coming with the report you receive on Wednesday:

*“We also know that we must include you as parents in this journey, last week you received a letter detailing an “engagement report” that gave an indication of how the teacher perceives each child to be engaging in online learning. The letter that accompanied it was very clear in explaining where the information came from, how it can be used but most importantly it is ONLY part of the picture. You should use it how you see fit, alongside the telephone calls to school, the emails received and your knowledge of what your child is doing on a day to day basis. We are fully aware these are challenging times and it is easy to be knocked of keel, that is not the purpose, it should be seen as another piece of the jigsaw to help you see the bigger picture.*

*I am sure you will agree with me, that if we did not tell you anything until September, you would be at the very least upset and concerned, whereas the information used carefully, as explained in the letter, should help you be better informed. Of course, if there is something that does not seem right with it, we are more than happy to address it, to talk to you and to provide greater clarification. “*

**Phased return of students:** You will be aware that we are aiming to invite every student accompanied by a parent on to school site before the end of term. We have now invited in all Year 12, Year 10 and Year 9 students. I am thrilled to tell you that even in these uncertain times of risk we have had nearly 90% attendance. These meetings are vital to help settle you and your children back into the school routine. I look forward to welcoming as many Year 8 students this week and Year 7 next week.



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**Celebrating Achievements:** we continue to celebrate widely. Last week we completed the “Virtual Sports Day 2020” with a large number of staff and students getting involved and collecting those important points for their College. I am sure you will join me in congratulating all of Delta for their hard work and dedication as they swept the other four colleges aside. Star Learner Awards are visible every day on social media and are wonderful to see. I must share with you the continued talents from our artists, and in particular one of our amazing GCSE Art Students who has been successful in an art competition based upon ‘Life After Lockdown’. Charlotte A artwork (Year 11 Epsilon) has been successful in being featured in an online ‘Life After Lockdown’ exhibition held by the National Society For Education in Art & Design (NSEAD) and has the possibility of a physical exhibition in the National Gallery in the future. Charlotte’s piece is based on Boris Johnson and Donald Trump and is called ‘Sychophant’. This piece, along with eight other Herne Bay High students, have been shortlisted for the Turner portfolio exhibition at the Turner in Margate. It has to be said that lockdown does not take the art out of HBHS. Please continue to keep up to date on our Facebook page.

**September:** The government has released guidance on what schools need to do to ensure we achieve what the Prime Minister has stated in that “all students will be back in school full time from September 2020”. You can read the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

It is our intention to work towards getting every student back to school but this is no mean feat. The guidance is ambiguous about the importance of social distancing and refers to either class or year group “bubbles” of students who do not mix. At HBHS that is a bubble of 270!

This will alter how we organise students, the site, the processes we follow and the operation of the school for the foreseeable future. We will undertake a full risk assessment and share the changes as much as we can before we break for the summer. However, one aspect that has been made explicitly clear is the reliance on good behaviour and adherence to the measures we put in place. To add clarity to what is required we will be publishing an amendment to the behaviour policy which we will require every student and parent to sign.

So, we have a very busy time ahead of us; we will continue to readily share policy updates, risk assessment and further guidance from the government. I am confident we can get everything in place to get education at HBHS back up to “nearly normal”. It will be crucial to this success that we have your complete support in the coming months.

Have a safe couple of weeks, keep following the advice (you can get your haircut now!!) and I will write once more before we finish on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

With kind regards,

**Jon Boyes**  
**Principal**