



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



8th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the start of another week; I hope you had a good weekend, a time where we have seen the first rain for a while. It is a worrying time for me as Principal as students have not been in school now for 15 weeks, and although that does include 3 week of holiday time, it is the longest break in learning that I have ever seen in education. That is not only going to impact on student's academic progress, but also for some on their mental wellbeing. Also, we don't often focus on you as parents; I do understand the role you play in supporting your children, in cajoling them and in keeping them on the straight and narrow, and I realise that doing this 24/7 with all the other pressure life brings at this time is no mean feat, and for that I commend you.

As the weeks roll on, we have to start thinking about the longer game. It is likely for many students that some form of remote learning, blended with short periods of time in school will be the new normal, perhaps right through until Christmas and even beyond. Like you, I hope to be proved wrong, but at the moment I cannot see any other option that is possible with social distancing firmly in place. I can assure you that this is an eventuality that we are planning for now and not something that will take us by surprise in September.

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 teachers perceive each child to be engaging in online learning. The letter that accompanied it was very clear in explaining where the information came from and 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 off keel, however 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 if used carefully and as explained in the letter, should help you be better informed. Of course, if there is something that does not seem right, we are more than happy to address it, to talk to you and to provide greater clarification.

Over these weeks we have been inundated with positive messages from parents (and I mean hundreds) for the support we have been giving you and your children. That has included phone calls home, emails to the children, regular letters, 35 laptops given to students, video messages from college teams about wellbeing, endless competitions, activities and extracurricular events, public celebration of the fantastic work being done at home, open communication links for you and your children to the school for support whenever you need it, even in the holidays. We are balancing this for the families of just under 1600 students, all remotely and all from a zero-starting point on March 23rd. I am acutely aware that it is not going to be perfect all the time, but we are 100% open to make it work and to be there for you all. We are just a call away, and often a listening ear is all that is needed to put thing right.



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As I am sure you are already aware, we will, from the 15th June, be bringing Year 10 and Year 12 students back into school to help them focus on their remote learning. I can also tell you today that we are making a pledge that all students in Years 7 to 9 will start to have some of their lessons delivered so they are either live or so they can hear their own teachers voice explaining the work.

This is not common in the state sector and it is something that we hope will help you re-engage those, who after 10 weeks, are finding this hard going.

As always please contact the school directly if you need support or clarification on anything you receive . A reminder of how to keep in contact :

College	College Manager	Telephone Number
Delta	Mrs L Bailey	01227 289458
Epsilon	Mrs D Treacher	01227 289421
Omega	Mrs L Sparks	01227 289420
Sigma	Mrs G Verge	01227 289446
Theta	Mrs T Shaw	01227 289457
SEND /Inclusion Team	Mrs B Tate	01227 289426

Post 16 updates please email : 6form@hernebayhigh.org

We still have 7 weeks to run of this summer term and we need to continue to work together to help each other provide the best quality education we can for every child in the school. The best way of doing this when the going gets tough is to talk to us directly.

Have a good week, look after yourselves and take care,

Mr Boyes
Principal