



# Herne Bay High School

## Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS  
☎ 01227 361221 ✉ [principal@hernebayhigh.org](mailto:principal@hernebayhigh.org)



25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to my regular Friday update. Initially I thought that a weekly letter would leave me struggling for useful information to share with you; how wrong I was.

We have had a very busy week in school and are starting to see summer edge into autumn with colder and wetter weather, therefore I am sure you will agree that the move to getting all students back in warmer full school uniform is welcome. This decision has left a few parents anxious about the measures we have in place so please let me reassure you with regards to changing for PE.

We have 12 changing rooms in total, and they are only used by half of a single year group at a time. They will be fully cleaned by our premises team in between year groups to ensure continuity of our year-based bubbles. It is also worth noting that when changing for PE, each room will have approximately 15 to 20 students which is significantly less than in a classroom and less than the density of students within the year group during break and lunch.

As you will appreciate, we are in very complex times and the measures we have put in place are significant. It is also now abundantly clear that the entire school year will be under these restrictions. We are moving into at least 6 months of cold, wet winter weather and attending school in PE kit, doing PE lessons in wet weather and then remaining in this damp kit for the remainder of the day is hugely detrimental to the wellbeing and learning of students. The decision to start the year in PE kit gave the school time to get the correct safety measures and cleaning routines in place before we used changing rooms. I anticipate that you will understand this and work with us to ensure that **ALL** students are back wearing full school uniform immediately. It would be a shame to have start enforcing this through sanctions.

Another hot topic is the Test and Trace issues that are widely publicised by the national media (and local press). Like all schools, this has had an impact on both staff and students who, through wider family connections or being symptomatic, have had to seek a test. Whilst the figures mentioned on the Meridian Broadcast on Monday seemed large, these were cumulative figures, and at any one time we are having roughly a dozen students and a couple of staff not in school. We are fortunate that we have not yet had a positive COVID test for anyone within the school community. We have a comprehensive plan that will come into force should we receive notification of either staff or a student testing positive and I would ask that you familiarise yourselves with this in advance. The implication of a positive test is that affected students and/or staff are sent home to isolate following Public Health England isolation guidance. I have included several very useful documents that will help you make decisions about what to do in different COVID situations on our website:

<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/information/coronavirus/full-re-opening-of-school-site-to-students/>

**NHS Test & Trace App:** On Thursday of this week, the Government launched the NHS Test and Trace App. This is a key weapon in the fight against coronavirus and we strongly recommend that all parents and students over 16 consider registering and downloading the app. Full details can be found here:

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/introducing-the-app.pdf>

Other important information that I would like you to be aware of:

**Dropping off / picking up from school:** Please be mindful of our closest residents when dropping off and picking up children each day. I would ask that you try to use as wider radius as possible and spread the load, reducing congestion, and blocking of local houses and roads. A short walk in the morning will help students wake up ready for the day.

**Coming on to school site:** Can I please reiterate the importance of parents not coming on to school site unless you have a pre-arranged appointment. If you do need to drop something in to school, pull up to the side of main gate 3, buzz main reception and someone will come to meet you.



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**Bags and carrying books:** Students do need to be able to come to and from school with their own equipment. Part of our coronavirus mitigation is to not lend anything that could be touched or used by another year group and therefore your child may be carrying a little more than normal. This is further compounded by not being able to have lockers as they are spread throughout the school and not in year group bases. However, in Years 7, 8 & 9 students can leave bags in their base room for most of the day, break and lunch included. Please support us by overseeing the packing of the correct equipment for school.

**Remote learning & homework:** This will be set online in its entirety to reduce the transmission risk. Show My Homework will indicate what the homework is and may point to our online platform, Microsoft Teams for the content. This is also the place that work is being set by all teachers for absent students to continue to access lesson material. I have asked all staff in the coming weeks to repeatedly show students where and how they access this.

**Supporting and monitoring your child's learning:** If you have not already accessed MyEd, please go to the relevant app store and download it. Through this you will be able to track a significant amount of information regarding your child's progress, attendance and conduct. Further information can be found here:



<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/our-school/parent-apps/>

As we continue to navigate an ever-changing world, we are constantly adapting our processes to ensure we can support the community that rely so heavily on Herne Bay High School. For example:

**Year 6 Open Events:** Next week we would normally be hosting our Year 6 open events but this year, due to the restrictions, it will need to be a little different. On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, our Year 6 website will go live at <https://www.hernebayhigh.org/openday> and this shares a plethora of fantastic virtual tours, interviews and films that convey all we are about. Enjoy!

**Parent Evenings:** The first parent information event is for Year 11 and is scheduled for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. We have adapted our processes and using bespoke parent meeting software, we will be running this event as a series of virtual meetings with subject staff that you will sign up for in the normal way. A letter with full details will be sent to Year 11 parents shortly.

The support we have had from our parents has been overwhelming, which is fantastic. However, I do ask that if you require clarification or reassurance on any of our changes, issues or processes then please contact the school directly. Looking on the unofficial local social media sites can further confuse and cause greater anxiety. You can also follow us on our genuine Facebook and Twitter feeds which currently have a wonderful array of support and help for you all.

As always, look after yourselves, continue to support the school and stay safe.

Kind regards,

**Jon Boyes**  
Principal