



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS

☎ 01227 361221 ✉ principal@hernebayhigh.org



20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Time is passing swiftly under our virtual school regime with half term upon us at the end of the week. This will give an opportunity for you all to take a breath and forget about school work, online learning, connectivity, who has the laptop and make time for other family activities. With the very slight release of the lockdown measures, there is also the potential to enjoy the amazing weather that we are currently blessed with.

Phased return to school

I am sure that you will have kept up to speed with all the latest government announcements about schools going back from the 1st June. It is important to know that we have been open for vulnerable children, children of key workers and those with a social worker throughout the entire period. What we are now talking about is starting to explore how we can re-integrate other students back into school site after half term.

The exact instruction taken from the DfE guidance states:

*The two year groups in mainstream secondary schools and colleges have been prioritised because they are preparing for key examinations next year, and are most at risk of falling behind due to time out of school or college. From 1 June 2020, we expect that secondary schools and colleges will be able to offer **some face to face contact with year 10 and year 12 pupils**. This will **not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time**, rather some **support to supplement pupils' remote education**. In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools and colleges should limit the attendance of the year 10 and 12 cohort in the setting at any one time and to keep students in small groups as set out in our guidance. Schools and colleges should also ensure that the use of public transport for travel to and from school/college is minimised, especially at peak times*

As you can see, they require schools to provide some face to face contact to support the remote learning, and this is applicable to Year 10 and 12 only. We are therefore moving into a phase we are calling blended learning.

Much has been reported about the struggle, particularly in primary schools, to be able to reopen under the current climate with the pandemic still prevalent in society. Recent guidance from the DfE gives great detail on the latest scientific advice for school and children returning to school, this can be found here.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885631/Overview_of_scientific_advice_and_information_on_coronavirus_COVID19.pdf

We have decided that the safety, well-being of staff, students and families is the highest priority in our planning. Therefore, we will be inviting Year 10 students into school during the week of the 8th June and Year 12 from the 15th June. Year 10 students will only attend in very small groups and will have one 2½ hour session in that week. You will receive a personal invitation giving the date, time, schedule and purpose for this in the first week back after the half term break. We are planning to ask one parent to accompany their child for the initial meeting and this will help reassure you of how we can



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support you and your child. I am confident that we can provide both students and families reassurance that we have fully risk assessed this return and that it will provide invaluable help for all students and parents attending. Full details about the changes to the school premises will be shared with all parents after the 1st June. Please also be aware that the national picture is very fluid, and it is highly likely that our plans will adapt as we receive greater clarity from the government on what is required of us. As ever, I will always keep you fully updated of what is happening

This move to blended learning for Year 10 & 12 will not be to the detriment of the excellent remote learning package that we are providing for Years 7, 8 & 9. In fact, we are constantly developing this and will move to more live, voice recorded and interactive lessons to ensure the learning is as effective as we can possibly make it. I am sure you will continue to support us in helping your child engage in this process. We are going to be reporting back to you in the 1st week back detailing the teachers' perception of engagement in learning since schools were asked to close. This information accompanies the conversations that you may have had with the school already and is to help you keep informed about the process and to help those conversations about school work. As previously mentioned, we fully appreciate that it is not always easy to balance the demands of lockdown life and will continue to work with you to support your family.

Please keep up to date on our website, Facebook and Twitter feeds as on a daily basis as we are celebrating so much excellent work from your children. All can be accessed from our website at <https://www.hernebayhigh.org/main/>

We have over the last few weeks asked our mentors to call home to talk to you about how you are coping and if there is any other support that we can provide. If you have not received a call please can I ask that you make contact with your child's college (details below)

Keeping in contact

Without school physically being there parents can often feel isolated, please use the contact details below for informing the school of any changes to your circumstances, health issues, concerns or updates to your family situation whilst we are closed.

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

Please have a relaxing half term, continue to follow all the official guidance, don't take too seriously everything you read in the newspapers and look out for the updates from myself in the first week back.

With best wishes,

Jon Boyes
Principal