



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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12th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

We find ourselves at the end of another term. One that has brought disruption, new ways of living and learning and, more recently, some extremely cold weather. One of our school values is perseverance and perhaps now, more than ever, we all need to find some perseverance. I am ever hopeful that with the shoots of spring comes the glimmer of change and a return back to schooling and some sense of normality.

We are eagerly awaiting a series of announcements by the Government. I anticipate hearing the plan for the wider reopening of schools within the week, as the earliest date of the 8th March is fast looming. We are waiting for a detailed announcement on the role schools will play in helping exam boards generate GCSE and A level grades instead of planned summer examinations. As soon as we have the detail, I shall write at length to update you.

There is much speculation in the press in relation to the impact of Covid, citing a “lost generation” or the “dramatic financial impact lasting for a lifetime”. Whilst not taking anything away from the impact it has had on all our lives, this over dramatisation does not help anyone. Please be reassured that we have a plan to help all students and they must try not to get too stressed or despondent; with hard work, determination and the support of school and family, we will be fine.

We have been made aware of a fantastic opportunity for virtual emotional resilience courses being funded by the Early Help Programme for young people in the Canterbury District. Details are here, along with how to book your child onto one of these courses.

[Virtual Bounce Back Courses - Mid Kent Mind \(maidstonemind.org\)](https://www.maidstonemind.org)

I hope you find this useful, please do let your child’s Year Manager know if they participate in the course.

As we move into Term 4 we are excited about interviewing over 220 applicants for our 6th form; Year 12’s who will start in September. We are also pleased to see greater numbers than ever wanting to join Year 7 this year.

I do urge you to read the latest version of our “Heron” parent magazine; it quite aptly is full of love, with poems, reflections, stories and memories that we all hold dear.

A copy can be found here <https://sway.office.com/y3R3VysZj3bpebH1?ref=Link>

Please have a good half term break and when we return on the 22nd February, I urge that all students engage with their online learning refreshed, eager and prepared. For Year 11 and Year 13 students it is absolutely crucial that this is the case as the work you will be doing WILL contribute to the grades you are awarded this summer.

Take care, look after yourselves and your families,

Mr Boyes
Principal