



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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



20th April 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Start of Term 5 update

A warm welcome back to the start of Term 5 at Herne Bay “Virtual” High School. I do hope that over the Easter break you have had some opportunities to do something differently, meet with friends “virtually” and are not feeling too frazzled. As I am sure you are aware, the current situation is going to continue for a while so on Monday 20th we will recommence with the online education programme that we had in place before the break.

Initially, this will comprise of work being set using Show My Homework and staff being available to support via the SMHW e-mail system, as well as all the normal communication channels open for help via the College teams if needed.

It is likely that over the coming week things will change, and as ever, we will keep you updated as soon as we have this information so that you can start to plan as well. It is likely that the government will ask schools to open when the science tells them it is suitable and safe to do so. However, this will not be a “normal” full opening of schools; I doubt if this will happen until September at the earliest. I won’t speculate too much as there are so many unknowns, but it is likely that we will be asked to accept partial year groups (1/2 of year 10 for example) into part of the school, retain some form of social distancing and have new systems in place for timings, breaks, food and travel. We will also need to wait for guidance on and be equipped with any necessary PPE to ensure that we operate a safe school. Normal timetables will probably also need to change to ensure we can appropriately staff the students who are on site. So, over the next few weeks I am sure that there will much written in the press about “schools opening”, but please do wait for communication from myself on what this really looks like as it will not be “normal school”.

A reminder that we updated student emails which will impact on the login process to Show My Homework. This has been very successful and thoroughly tested by our Technical team so I am anticipating a smooth start to the learning week. Just in case you have forgotten, to access any online system including email, Show My homework and the new cloud based storage the login has **CHANGED FROM : username@klz.org.uk TO username@hernebayhigh.org.**

Part of this change has enabled all families to have access to the full Microsoft Office 365 suite, including secure video conferencing packages. We will, over the coming weeks, (and months if needed) start to use this with classes to supplement their SMHW lessons, which could add an extra dimension and lead to some fully taught online lessons. We are fully aware, as is the government, that not everyone has suitable access to online learning and you will have seen that the Secretary of State for Education has announced today a couple of measures to help with this. These include supply of laptops for some families, 4G routers for those who cannot access the internet and also some centrally created learning material for the whole country to access (more on this next week).



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Government announcement April 19th 2020

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-package-to-support-online-learning?utm_source=4e85bd97-1e30-4780-b15f-f697e7553dea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Therefore, as we return can I ask that you continue, as best you can, to support your child with their learning. This can be as simple as starting the routine of school, up and ready in the morning, checking what work they have; remember that you can look at their show my homework pages. Also reassuring them and reminding them if they are stuck that there are teachers on hand to help.

Additionally, please be mindful of their mental wellbeing, (and of course yours). Don't over pressure them if they are overwhelmed. The school completely appreciates these are unprecedented times and we will be doing things differently when we finally return to school to ensure students are not disadvantaged in the long term. Our support lines are always there and are as follows:

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	Ms B Tate	01227 289426
Post 16 updates please email :	6form@hernebayhigh.org	

A reminder that in my letter prior to Easter, I shared the process and contact details regarding the ability for certain students to attend school if needed and the protocol for contacting us to arrange this if needed.

Exam updates

We have had a couple of exam updates over Easter. Ofqual have said that Year 11 and Year 13 examination results will be published on the normal August dates, not in July as previously mentioned. These are 13th August for Year 13 and 20th August for Year 11. Ofqual are also currently stating that there will not be an option to appeal the summer grade but just opportunities to either re-sit in the Autumn or the Summer 2021. You can get the latest update here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020?utm_source=1c1059d0-a03d-4f1e-9deb-98cdc547371e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate



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In these difficult times we sometimes need family support either for parents or the wider family and here are some helpful contact details for you should you need them at this time:

Childline:	0800 1111
Samaritans:	116 123
Domestic Violence Hotline:	0808 2000 247
Mind:	0300 123 3393
Age UK:	0800 169 6565

Another new initiative that we are getting up and running is the Star Learner. This will be an opportunity to reward and praise those that are making a fantastic job of their remote learning. We shall be creating galleries of work and publicly celebrating those students. Heads of College and teachers will be nominating students and we shall be celebrating their endeavours.

HBHS Supporting the Community

I thought you would like to know that Herne Bay High School is continuing to support the effort to battle the Covid-19 situation. Over the Easter break two of our staff, Mrs Richford and Mrs Morris have been working away over in Ramsgate at Chatham & Clarendon School where they have been supporting the East Kent Team in making visors for local hospitals. At the last count, they had made and delivered over 8000 visors and have raised over £13,000 through the GoFundMe page at

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/chatham-and-clarendon-grammar-visors-for-nhs>

I will continue to keep you updated with any change to the situation and, in particular, news on the return to school as soon as it is available. As always take care, remain safe and continue to follow the detailed advice from the government.

With kind regards

Jon Boyes
Principal