



Herne Bay High School

Specialist Sports College

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Dear Parents / Carers

What a busy and exciting term it has been at Herne Bay High School. Over the last few weeks I have been constantly being reminded of just how talented and wonderful our students can be. I am unashamedly saying that we get better every term and support this by reporting to you the following successes.

I, along with all the staff and students were thrilled to be identified in the National League tables as the 5th highest performing 6th form in Kent and the most successful in the Canterbury and Thanet districts; and that includes grammar schools. I am proud when our school choir are singing in Canterbury town centre alongside peers from The King's School Canterbury, St Edmunds and St Lawrence. To be able to share the talents in Performing Arts and Drama with 7 wonderful local Primary and Infant schools at the Primary Performing Arts festival this week, for 300 plus parents to witness the most amazing performances at the Drama showcase, to be successfully competing in debating competitions across the Canterbury district, to be lifting the Year 10 district trophy in football this week. These superb achievement will continue after Easter as we continue to give opportunities to all our students and enable them to operate beyond their own expectations.

Last week I was part of the panel that interviewed sixth form students for our senior leader posts of head and deputy head boy and girl. Once again I was blown away by the character, commitment, maturity and confidence of our students, dare I say it better than some adults that I have interviewed. I am pleased to announce that Charlie Waller and Ciara Barley will be head boy and head girl respectively, with their support coming from Andre Sincik and Francesca Annis as deputies.

We are embedding our ASPIRE vision into how we develop your children and continue to bring more and more opportunities for them to experience and work on their character, be it from self-belief to perseverance and integrity. This has been achieved through quality teaching, careful and compassionate mentoring, thought provoking assemblies and external speakers, exposure to challenges they never knew they could achieve, I am proud of them all and together make working at Herne Bay High such a pleasure.

If you have not already done so, please take time to follow what we are up to either through our school website at www.hernebayhigh.org or on our social media platforms of Twitter and Facebook. Our aim is to be able to share everything we do on a daily basis via social media and encourage your support and interaction with the achievements. While I am talking about social media, please remember that we are an open and approachable school and the correct way to bring anything to our attention is by picking up the phone and talking to us or sending an email to principal@hernebayhigh.org. We are continually trying to educate all young people about the correct and safe way to use social media and would encourage parental support with this. In my letter to you earlier this year I reminded you of all the communication routes available to you, including my "open door" sessions every Monday morning. In addition there was also an invite to be part of a parent forum. (Letter available in Letters from the Principal section of school website).

We are once again at the point in the year where our Year 11 students are embarking on their final GCSE examinations, time comes around very quickly! We have an extensive range of support materials, interventions and extra activities in place to help them achieve to their full potential. From our website home page you can access all the material from the "Information" and then "Key

Stage 4 Exam Support” tab. This gives you access to a revision portal, the login to which is your child’s school login. Please also take a moment to talk to your child about “GCSE Pod” a new video streaming facility for Year 11 revision that has clips for every aspect of all the exam courses on offer, available on line or through the website.

I am sure have been made aware in the local press about the proposals by two Grammar schools to open a new school on the coastal strip between Herne Bay and Whitstable. I have written a formal response on behalf of the school and this is available for you to read on the school website. A very insightful take on local education can be found at <https://coastalschoolforall.org/>. Regardless of the changing nature locally, Herne Bay High School is a school that will provide an outstanding education for any child within the local community enabling them to fulfil their dreams and be prepared for the next stage of their lives, something I am passionate about.

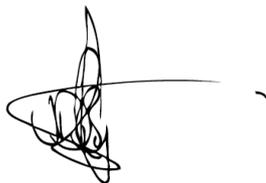
On a slightly more practical note, can I please ask you to ensure that you keep the school informed of any changes to your situation, be it telephone numbers, address or family situation. In particular if there is any change to an existing medical condition, medication being taken, or a new diagnosis. It is vital we know as soon as possible so we can update records and individual medical plans where appropriate.

As I write this with the rain falling steadily outside my office it seems ironic that after Easter we return to our “summer uniform”. As such can you please ensure that over the break you ensure that the correct summer inform is available and worn correctly, details on school website, as this avoids any unnecessary confrontation in the first days back.

Next term will be very busy, Year 11 and Year 13 will both be deep in their formal examinations and planning the next steps of their journey, whilst at the same time we see the induction of our new Year 7 students who join us in September. Our 6th form continues to expand, with a record number of applications for Year 12 next year. This is also accompanied by a significant increase in Year 6 students selecting us as their first choice school. This is all good news and does reflect the immense amount of hard work from all our staff and the excellence that we are obtaining from our students.

I do hope that you manage to have a restful and enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to the summer term.

With best wishes



Jon Boyes
Principal