



# BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School  
Avenue of Remembrance  
Sittingbourne  
ME10 4DB

29 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

You may have noticed that I kept my bulletin until later this week on the basis that there was a sense that an announcement was coming. Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that schools will return on the 8<sup>th</sup> March subject to review. Although we were not given any more details, there is some suggestion that this will be a phased return, likely with primary schools and examination year groups first. We have been told that more will be made clear on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, when I will write to you again with our plans.

## Exams

The consultation on exams finishes this week, but the outcome is unlikely to be announced for some time. As I said in my last bulletin, the suggestion is for formal controlled assessments, similar to exam papers, marked by staff then moderated by exam boards. What is clear is that these are not teacher assessed grades, as was the model eventually used last year. This means students in exam year groups must be working consistently at home, doing follow-up work and being proactive in asking for support. Please let us know if you have concerns or need support, particularly if your child is in Year 11 or 13 and we are not already in contact about it.

## Remote learning

Please remind your child to attend the Monday morning tutor session so that we can set them up for the week and check they are ready to engage. I am pleased to say that attendance and engagement to lessons is very positive, and thank you for your support in encouraging this. There are a small number of students in all year groups who are struggling to engage and we are working with parents and students on this. We do have a small number of laptops that may be able to help with connection if there are ICT issues, but please don't suffer in silence. It is also fair to say that a small number of students have taken the approach of turning up and logging on, but then not actually working. Staff are trying to follow-up on this wherever it is noticed, but please do talk to your child about their work in these lessons or look at what they have submitted, as this may highlight the issues at your end! Finally, whilst I am keen for parents to support their children in their online learning, please refrain from joining in with lessons and use the normal forms of communication if you have any questions for staff. I am very proud of the fact that the staff at Borden have moved so far, so fast, with online learning. However, please understand that it can be quite an unnerving step for teachers to be blindly 'broadcasting' their lessons into homes.

## Testing

We are continuing to lateral flow test staff and students who are in school. If we are to have students returning in March we will want to have a testing regime in place which is extremely labour intensive. I have a few parent volunteers who I will contact next week to start discussing training, but if you are willing to help, please contact us at the school with your details. This may be to do something as simple as shepherding students into the right place or reassuring them on how to take the test, but it will all help.

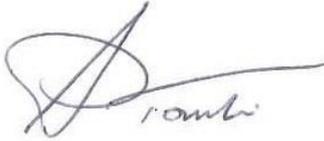


Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Finally, thank you as always for your kind words and support which have continued this week. The current scenario is increasingly challenging for parents, students and teachers, but the Borden community seems to be pulling together to make the best of it. However, I am sure that we are united in our hope that the vaccine will mean we won't have to do this for too much longer.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Tomlin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ashley Tomlin**  
**Headteacher**