



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

11 February 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

It's strange that a week focused on snow has felt like a welcome break to the focus on the pandemic. Borden has remained open throughout and if you had driven past in the early hours, you may have seen me shovelling! The students who have continued to attend have at least been allowed some time out to enjoy the snow at break and lunch. To be honest, to see them running around, laughing, and being children, was refreshing and very much reminded me of the normality we all hope to return to in the near future.

HPV Immunisations (Year 8 and 9 only)

The Kent Community Health NHS team contacted us with concerns about continuing with the injections in the snow, and we have therefore cancelled. They are intending on providing another date for these injections to take place, probably sometime over the Easter break.

Exams (Year 11 and 13)

We have yet to hear an outcome of the consultation but are starting to 'prepare for the exams season, whatever this may look like. A letter has been sent to Year 11 parents explaining our next steps and Year 13 have now completed going through the UCAS process. All I would ask is that as parents, you help to keep them focused, push them to ask for support if they need it and talk to teachers and Heads of Year if there are issues that remain unresolved. We may not be in daily contact but are all still here and ready to support if we can.

Remote learning

Thank you to the 294 parents and 387 students who have completed the remote learning surveys at present. Please can I ask that everyone completes this:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdx0a71BmWTStkXaliYaHaBX1b3MvsphgRWJlixKHbddly_n2Q/viewform?usp=sf_link **(parent)**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvVQj8oyQEn1MOgjiivrxybnIMM-18LFILm38_TAx23-wibg/viewform?usp=sf_link **(student)** as it is really useful information for us to reflect on what we are trying to achieve. I sincerely hope we won't have another lockdown, but it may serve useful even for those having to isolate in the future. We have recently created an online certificate recognising a student's good work, which staff will begin to use this week. One area that is already proving a point of some controversy is the amount of work (including homework) students are receiving. Some parents and students think it is too much, others too little and most about right. Finding this 'Goldilocks' area is always going to be difficult, but I suspect that the variables of how thoroughly a student completes the work, the particular combination of teachers a student has, together with the particular viewpoint or expectation of the parent, will explain most of the differences. However, if you feel particularly strongly one way or the other, please do contact the teacher, tutor or head of year concerned so that they can investigate. I would particularly ask that you do this if your child is struggling so that we can offer support.

Covid-19 Procedure during February Half-term

If your child develops either a high temperature/ new and persistent cough/ a loss of taste or sense of smell then we would advise you to book a test for them immediately using this online form, <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or ring 119. Notify school using our main email address. Your child should then isolate for 10 days and your household for 10 days unless a negative test result is returned, and we would be grateful if you could also inform us of the test result.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



This term, we say goodbye to English/Drama teacher, Mrs Stanley, please see below message from her English colleagues:

This term we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Stanley as she takes a, hopefully temporary, break from teaching to spend more time with her young family. She is one of our longest standing teachers, having joined Borden as a Newly Qualified Teacher back in 2004. In the course of her career here, she has been a much-loved and successful member of the English department. This included taking on extremely ambitious, full-scale student productions for GCSE Drama, such as 'Of Mice and Men' and 'Lord of the Flies' and producing sixth form musicals including 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. These included students from Fulston and Highsted. She even found time to write, direct and star in various Year 8/staff pantomimes. She'll be much-missed and we wish her all the very best in the future.

Finally, in continuing to trawl through some of the older paperwork in my office, I came across a document entitled "Remote learning in the event of extended school closures in a flu pandemic". Not something you would find surprising or interesting at the moment. However, this was written in May 2007; little did we know.

Stay safe,

Kind Regards,

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

Ashley Tomlin
Headteacher