



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

31 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly thank you for your patience and support this year, particularly for supporting your child's return to school. Student attendance has been 98% across the school since we have returned, with some year groups regularly achieving 100% attendance which is outstanding. There is plenty of evidence to show the correlation between regular good attendance, outcomes, and positive mental health, so please do keep this going!

Year 11 and Year 13

Friday afternoon saw the release of a significant amount of information from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regarding the planning and organisation for the exam series this year, impacting directly on year 11 and 13. Not only were there changes in emphasis from the previous, more flexible, guidance given by Ofqual, but it is also very late in the day with the supporting papers yet to be released. We will write separately to parents in year 11 and 13 and talk to students directly once we have cemented our plans during the course of this week.

E-Scooters

We have noticed the increase in the use of these amongst students and some of them are being used unsafely. The law says that these are illegal on public roads and pavements unless rented in specific areas under a government trial (Canterbury is our most local). Therefore they should not be brought into school. We have provision to securely look after bicycles and I would certainly encourage any student to cycle in as this is good for the environment and their physical health. For more information, see the government guidance linked here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>. Whilst on the subject of road safety, may I ask you to remind your child to safely cross the Avenue of Remembrance using the traffic lights crossing on their way to and from school.

Expansion

You will have received an email informing you of the consultation process regarding our intended expansion of our PAN from 120 to 150 from September 2022. There is more information regarding this on the website at <https://www.bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk/community/trustees-and-members/school-expansion-consultation>, but needless to say that the school is very excited by the prospect, particularly the accompanying new build that will help to alleviate some of the stresses we experience in a building built almost 100 years ago. Please do respond, even if you feel entirely positively about it.

Website

If you have clicked on the above link, you will also have visited our brand new website. We have been working on this over the last few months and hope you like the new 'fresh' look. It is worth noting that the benefits go deeper than just aesthetics as this website now works effectively on mobile devices and is much easier for our staff to update. Hopefully, this means it can be a more responsive and reflective website and therefore become more visited. There is also a useful newsletter function built into the software that I will likely test on you shortly!



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Easter School

As I said last week, we are offering a significant Easter school provision this year. If your child has been offered a place to attend, please do make sure they are supported to do so as staff are giving up their much needed holiday to make this happen. I am not keen on the national media narrative around 'catch up' since many of our students have done an exceptional job keeping up to date with their work, and this only adds to their anxiety. Easter school for some will, however, aid in their recovery and help build confidence.

Aim Higher

I am both sad to announce that Mr Wain has decided to step down from leading on our 'Aim Higher' programme, supporting primary schools to help year 6 students to come to Borden, but very pleased to advise that Miss Irinoye has now taken up this role. Miss Irinoye's background as having attended Highsted Grammar school and as a serving Borden mathematics teacher will be put to very good use when supporting our local year 5 and 6 students!

Finally, I know this has been a difficult year for us all and that the Easter break may be our first opportunity for a while to genuinely relax. I wish all our students a safe and restful break and look forward to starting school next term with some semblance of normality.

Kind Regards,

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

Ashley Tomlin
Headteacher