



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

23 April 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to start by agreeing with one of our parents who commented online, on the huge number of Easter support sessions that took place over the holiday,

"Well done lads. You should all be proud of yourselves and feel lucky to have such dedicated teachers".

I echo the thanks to both students and teachers who have stepped up at such a difficult time. Starting back after Easter has felt like a step towards normality and students seem to have settled well into the normal school routines. Attendance has been over 97% and punctuality to school has definitely improved. It does feel a little like we are all hopefully looking forward to the time we can move away from wearing masks, where students can change in changing rooms and move around the school to their lessons. However, to get there we all have to remain vigilant. So, in the short term, we must continue to have doors and windows open, remind students to sanitise, wear masks and keep up the lateral flow testing.

Standards

Whilst we have necessarily made compromises with some of our expectations, there remain a few are important to reinforce,

- Anything under a blazer should be their school uniform - no hoodies as jumpers please.
- 6th formers should be wearing smart casual clothes i.e. shirt and trousers. No tracksuits please and they must also wear their ID's in school.
- Energy drinks aren't allowed in school...and I would strongly encourage that they aren't consumed before school. Apart from being bad for health, they really do impact on concentration levels, with extremes of high's and lows.
- Phones are only allowed out in social spaces at social times, unless express permission given by the teacher.
- Students should arrive in school for 8.40 for registration at 8.45am, otherwise our escalation systems for lateness will be followed.
- We have seen a small trend of students deliberately damaging school chairs. It goes without saying that any student wilfully damaging school property will be sanctioned and required to pay for the cost of replacement.

I am pleased to say that most students are excellent and don't need reminding of any of these things, but those confronted with the above, sometimes say that it is the first they have heard about it...hence the reminder!



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Year 11 and 13

Both year 11 and 13 will be expected to attend school until the May half term when they will have finished assessments contributing towards their evidence for the submission of their grades to the exam boards. After this, we are intending to run a full 'induction week' from the 21st June for year 11 where they will attend lessons for the A level subjects they have chosen. In this week, we will also be setting subject specific work for them to prepare for their A levels in September to make sure that they are fully prepared for their next steps. We will share more details on how this will work towards the end of term. Additionally, we may offer some bespoke support for students who need additional support to achieve their next steps.

Expansion and admissions

You will be aware that we are currently undertaking a consultation regarding the proposed expansion for Borden to increase its intake from 120 to 150 students in each year group from 2022. The virtual consultation meeting took place this week where representatives from the school, KCC, other parties related to the proposed new build and local resident representatives. Please follow the link on the website if you are interested to learn more and respond to the consultation if you wish to.

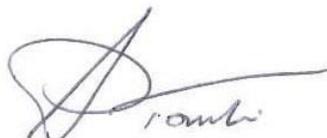
Positive messages

We continue to run virtual assemblies in the absence of being able to get everyone together. This week year 9, for instance, were looking at a growth mindset and how focusing on the journey rather than the outcome is more important. In a world seemingly obsessed with outcomes, this is a really important message. Fear of failure is common, particularly in a high stakes system. Therefore, acknowledging success is important, but please do talk to your child more about the effort they are putting in when talking to your child about their work.

We have also seen a number of our year 7 students begin their anti-bullying ambassador training this week, whilst we are also expecting to train some of our year 12s shortly to provide some mentoring to younger students. Well done to all of these students who truly reflect our Borden values, particularly showing kindness, respect, courage and resilience.

Finally, as the weather heats up a little, and the vaccine roll out continues, it feels like we all have good reason to look forward to the summer term with optimism. Thank you for all your kind words, patience and support over such a difficult period of time.

Yours faithfully,

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

Ashley Tomlin
Headteacher