



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

30 April 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

This weekly bulletin comes in two halves. The first half is for all parents, but if you are a parent of a child in year 11 or 13, then please make sure you read the second email as this relates directly to you.

Website

I am hoping you will all now have seen the new website and find it easier to navigate. We will continue to expand how we use this, but if you have any suggestions for things you would like included or thoughts on where things are located, then do please let us know.

Covid

As lockdown relaxes with the improving national picture, it is understandable that students tend to become more relaxed in their approach to restrictions. However, nothing has changed yet in terms of the guidance from the DFE and we need to remain vigilant. This means that we are still in bubbles, in seating plans, sanitising, testing, track and tracing and expecting students to wear masks. Please continue to remind your child to test twice a week and report this both to the NHS and the school so that we can continue to provide you with testing kits (links are circulated with Mrs Hall's weekly email).

Road safety

Having had a report of one of our students riding an e-scooter recklessly near to the school, I would like to remind everyone that they are not permitted in school as they are currently illegal on roads and pavements (other than where rented in specific areas). If brought into school, they will be confiscated and parents will be asked to come and pick them up. Can I also ask parents to remind their child of the need to be careful around the roads, particularly to and from school. It was only at the start of this year that there was an awful accident outside the front of the school with one of our students badly injured. Please remind them to cross at the crossing and avoid wearing headphones when crossing roads in general.

Summer Term

It has been difficult to plan ahead throughout the pandemic as schools have tended to find out everything after it has already been published in the media. However, we have started to think ahead to the second summer term when we are sincerely hoping the situation will allow us to do something other than sit in classrooms in seating plans, wearing masks. We are hoping to run a slimmed down version of our usual sports day outside, and some kind of summer arts festival. We are also hoping that more of our after-school activities and trips will be able to take place as things improve. We know how important these things are for students, both in terms of their mental health, but also as a part of the wider ethos of the school.

Healthy Masculinity

One of the things we have started thinking about as a staff this year is what we mean by 'healthy masculinity'. There are advantages and disadvantages to having single sex schools, but you only have to watch the news at the moment to realise that society in general needs to be aware of its responsibilities to prepare young men for modern society. Whilst crucial, it isn't only about education on relationships, responsibilities, values and mental health.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Research suggests that some male stereotypes fuel academic underperformance and poor behaviour. To give one example, there is evidence that the expectation for boys to be confident often generates a fear of getting things wrong in front of their peers. For some, it becomes easier not to try than to risk getting it wrong. So the view that 'boys always love competition' can sometimes be more alienating and damaging than helpful; the truth is that some do and some don't. The reason I am telling you this is so that you can be part of the thinking. As a parent of a teenager myself, I know how difficult it is to 'get it right' (and am often reminded when I 'get it wrong'). However, it remains important for us all to reflect on the language we use, on the way we try to motivate and the hidden messages we send on stereotypes in daily life.

Have an enjoyable bank holiday weekend, whatever the weather and thank you again for your continued support.

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