



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

21 May 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

It is common across schools that as we approach half term, there is a tendency for universal tiredness to cause problems to creep into school life. Students are naturally tired at the end of a long term, but it is likely to be worse this year because of the 'shock' of returning to school having had a significant amount of time learning at home. Students in year 11 and 13 have effectively had the normal pressure of an exam season moved earlier and staff who teach them have never faced such an increase in workload and responsibility. So, please reinforce the need for your child to be sensible as we approach the end of half term and help us all finish on a positive note.



Borden remembers

It is with great sadness that I report that one of Borden's past Headteachers, Bryan Short, passed away this week. Bryan was Headteacher at Borden for 30 years, between 1968 and 1998; a length of time almost unheard of in today's society. When students talk about the "S" block, they are using the initial for the "Short" block, formerly opened in 1998 and named after the past Headteacher. However, he also presided over the introduction of the Hardy building (or H block to the students), the introduction of the first computer at the school in 1981,

the switch from 11+ to 13+ and then to 11+ again, along with huge social changes across the period of his tenure. To say that he had an impact on the school and the local community of Sittingbourne would be an understatement. Bryan was described as "a man of good presence, voice and manner" with a "combination of idealism and common sense"; all attributes to admire and aspire to. He himself described Borden as a "thoroughly united school family" and I sincerely hope that it remains so as times change around us.

Parents' Evenings

We had a highly successful online year 7 parents evening this week. Feedback from parents has mostly been positive i.e. no need to find a parking place or queue in a busy hall. That said, there will always be a place for some face to face consultation and we will consider carefully how we manage a blended approach next year if things go back to normal.

On that note, I realise that some parents, particularly at key stage 3, have struggled to get appointments. This is largely an issue with some staff teaching 120 students; even 30 appointments take three and a half hours. This is very different to primary schools where each teacher has 30 students and can see everyone. However, we are certainly thinking about how we can offset the 'first come first serve' approach for the future to make sure all parents get to see a fair number of the teachers they wish to. If you have contacted staff you didn't get to see for feedback, then they will get back to you as soon as possible.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Social Media

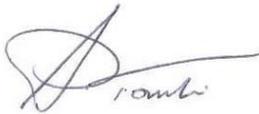
We regularly educate and remind our students of the need to be careful how they use social media. However, this is also true for staff and parents. Please can I ask that any parental concerns be raised with us by email or talking to us, rather than taking to the public domain. We may not always be able to agree, but will promise to listen and will always try to answer concerns in a reasonable and professional fashion.

Covid

Whilst masks are no longer expected, they are still a good idea. I worry that students sometimes have short memories and things like testing, social distancing, bubbles, sanitising, masks etc all seem unnecessary. Please remind them to keep testing twice a week and that we have to remain vigilant if we don't want the virus to return...it is a small price to pay.

Finally, a reminder that our first day back on Monday 7 June will be finishing early at 2pm, there will be earlier buses scheduled that day.

Kind regards,

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

Ashley Tomlin
Headteacher