



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

11 June 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Summer seems to have now truly arrived, bringing hot weather and stuffy classrooms. Whilst I seem to spend too much time talking about uniform, change is tricky for students, compliance is vital for schools to run smoothly and so clarity is important. Guidance on 'summer uniform' for the lower school for this half term has been given to students by tutors, but is below for you to help remind your son.

Summer Uniform

1. Students no longer have to wear blazers at all in and out of school
2. Students *must* wear a tie on your journey to and from school but can take it off in school
3. If students choose not to wear summer uniform, then they must continue to wear the full uniform, i.e. blazer and tie.
4. If students do wear summer uniform, the top button of their shirt should be undone when not wearing their tie and shirts should be tucked into trousers.
5. You should not replace the blazer with a coat or anything else. In other words, if it is too cold or wet and you need something over your shirt, then it must be your school blazer (and then a coat over the blazer if necessary).
6. As before, on days they have PE students can wear PE kit (not on any other days).
7. Since it is now very warm, coats should no longer be worn in classrooms.
8. Students must bring their uniform card, squid card and any equipment which they may usually put in their blazer.

Expansion

Students have spotted some fenced off work taking place on the field this week and are asking questions. This is for soil samples to be taken to examine the viability for a new build which I have written to you about before. We have already undertaken our own public consultation on this, although a more formal public consultation will take place later this month with regards to planning. More details on this can be found on our website; there is a big yellow button with "School expansion consultation".

Behaviour and safety to and from school

Parents and schools have a shared responsibility for the behaviour of students to and from school, particularly but not necessarily, whilst in school uniform. I make no apologies for expecting high standards from our students in this area as I want all our students to be proud of the school they attend. These expectations include uniform, how they relate to each other or members of the public, and the general image they present of the school. Please remind your child of this and that we will always follow up if a student has brought the school community into disrepute.

Similarly, please remind them to be careful coming to and from school. We have noticed that some students have reverted to crossing the Avenue without using the pedestrian crossing and this is dangerous. Similarly, remind them not to cross whilst listening to music or looking at their phones.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



Teacher Assessed Grades

For parents of those students who should have been taking exams this year, we are very much in the process of moderating and quality assuring our teacher assessed grades based on the evidence in your folders. There are a number of things on the website that I would recommend you review,

- Our policy document which details the rigorous moderation and quality assurance processes taking place for these grades to be arrived at.
- A video presented to our students where I explained the process last term.
- A list of evidence being used for each subject (both GCSE and A level). Students should already be aware of this, but should talk to their teachers NOW if they have any concerns regarding this.
- A student guide which includes information on appeals. It is worth reminding that one of the biggest differences from last year is that appeals may result in a grade going down as well as up.

All of this information can be found via one of the big yellow 'buttons' on the opening page or via the support and guidance section under the learning tab.

Exams in other year groups

We have started our exam season for other year groups. Whilst students will have had teachers talking about the information and ways they should go about revising, this remains an area we want to develop further. Below are a few brief tips on good and bad ways of revising, but we intend to do some more significant work on 'learning to learn' in September with students. For parents, I would recommend the following website as a good place to start. https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/what-are-the-best-ways-to-revise/#section_link_four

Do	Don't
Eat well and drink water	Miss meals
Have regular bedtimes and get 8hrs sleep	Go to bed late and get less than 8 hours
Use retrieval practice (flashcards)	Read through your notes
Spread out revision	Cram revision
Revise in 'chunks'	Revise whole subjects/topics at once
Revise in a quiet calm environment	Revise with your phone or music
Plan and 'interleave' content	Procrastinate or revise 'ad hoc'

Please talk to Heads of Year or subject teachers if you have any questions and thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

Kind Regards,



Ashley Tomlin
Headteacher