



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

25 June 2021

Dear parent or carer,

You can tell the sun has been shining recently when a year 9 student asks me if we have the money to install air conditioning - if only. However, it's certainly true that the school wasn't built to cope with extremes of temperatures. So please remind your child to keep hydrated and avoid too much running around at break and lunch on hot days.

Covid

Whilst Swale is in a better position at the moment, the national evidence is suggesting a rise of Covid cases with it spreading most in groups of unvaccinated young people. The government have yet to advise on the expectations for schools next year, but we know that none of us want the situation to deteriorate. Therefore, it is really important that you continue to remind your child to test themselves twice weekly, isolate if appropriate and sanitise regularly to help keep us all safe. The Education Secretary has also written a [letter to parents](#) encouraging them to support schools in this way.

In line with trying to do as much as possible safely, we are running a slimmed down version of sports day with individual year groups having their own event. We have unfortunately had to cancel our summer festival and the planned 'in person' year 6 to 7 transition event due to recent government guidance, and will be running a virtual model instead. Our Year 11 to 12 transition event has gone ahead as planned for our own students, but we will also now be running a virtual experience for those joining us from elsewhere. It is really disappointing to not see our future Borden students in person, but we have to put safety first.

Teacher Assessed Grades and Induction

The huge task of organising and awarding teacher assessed grades has dominated our thinking over the last term, but the initial phase has drawn to an end. Staff have worked tirelessly over the last term to assess, mark, moderate and complete the extensive paperwork that is required as part of this process. We now move into the centre moderation process before results days.

I would remind any parent of a student likely to receive a teacher assessed grade, to look at the information on the website, and make sure their child is fully aware which evidence is being used to inform their grade, as we have published this for every subject. If there is any doubt about the evidence, access arrangements or specific circumstances taken into account, please liaise directly with your subject teacher between now and the end of term so that they can go through it with you.

We also saw most of our Year 11 students back with us for our induction days this week, where they got a chance to experience their year 12 timetable and have talks from outside speakers. It was so nice to see them all so smartly dressed, full of enthusiasm about their next steps. Subject areas will have set them work to complete over the remainder of the summer period, so please do make sure they complete this. Similarly, if any student needs further advice, whether returning to us or not, please contact their head of year who will point them in the right direction.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH

Encouraging Diversity

As a school we take our responsibilities seriously in preparing our young people to leave us ready to change the world for the better. We can see from the broader issues in society that there is a job to be done everywhere in tackling racism, sexism and homophobia. Educating our students to accept and celebrate diversity, checking their use of language when inappropriate and sometimes sanctioning where necessary, are important parts of this process. This is why we take part in national events intended to highlight the position of minorities and this is why tutor time and personal development are so important as part of the school curriculum. I would only ask that you help us by also picking up on inappropriate language at home to support us in this endeavour.

Thank you as always for your continued support in what has been a complicated year. I look forward, with fingers crossed, to next year being much closer to normality.

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