



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Borden Grammar School
Avenue of Remembrance
Sittingbourne
ME10 4DB

4 September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I realise this is the second communication of the week and I am aware that too many letters or emails is not always a good thing. I am hoping that you will understand the importance of regular communication in these strange times and trust that you will continue to read it carefully. My first week at Borden has been wonderfully rewarded by seeing so many smiling students and staff, all genuinely happy to return to some sense of normality. It has genuinely been a pleasure.

I thought it might be useful to update you on what has been taking place this week at Borden and some of the key things that need a little more thought. The government tasked schools to implement a 'system of controls' to prepare for the return of students. For us, this involved grouping students into year group 'bubbles'. This involved having separate locations for all of their teaching, separate exit and entry points and different break times - as well as hand sanitising in every classroom and a further 31 fixed sanitising points around the building. I'm sure you will appreciate the logistical nightmare this creates, particularly for an older school originally built for fewer students. I'm pleased to say that the carefully thought through plans appear to have worked well this week. That's not to say they are perfect and we are regularly looking at ways this can be improved. We have already increased the number of sanitisers available and have improved the signage around the building.

The government guidance added masks 'where necessary' last Friday, but has said that they are unnecessary in schools unless there is a rise in infection. As you are already aware, I took the pragmatic step of making these voluntary and as a result, many students have chosen to wear masks in and around the building. I am very happy for students to wear masks in school, but would ask that they are plain in colour (preferably blue or black) and are a purposely designed mask rather than a bandana, scarf or any other item of clothing. From next week, students wearing something other than a mask will be asked to remove it. Sorry, I know this may sound a little officious, but boundaries are important in schools. They must also have a separate mask in school to the one they use outside and need to take particular care in removing and storing their mask, sanitising immediately after.

It is also worth reminding you that our canteen system is now cashless and that students need to regularly top up their cards if they are not bringing a packed lunch with them. I am sure you will understand that issues may arise with cards and this will make it more difficult to get students in and out of the canteen as quickly as possible. Please note that breakfast is not being served at the moment.

In terms of support, the school has introduced a new email address for Borden students, specifically to support their wellbeing. Good wellbeing allows us to be confident and comfortable in how we express our thoughts and feelings, nurture successful and productive relationships with others and develop the strength and confidence to be resilient. Sometimes, we need to talk to someone about the challenges we are facing and how we are coping with daily life. We want our students to know that they are not alone and we are here to help. To access support, they can email us at: wellbeing@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk. Additionally, we have attached information of external agencies that students can access.



Headteacher: Mr A Tomlin MA NPQH



On a separate matter, I am aware that the current mobile phone policy for students allows students a certain amount of responsibility. They are currently allowed to use them in 2 scenarios,

(a) outside of the school building at social times

(b) Anywhere, including lessons, having been given express permission by a member of staff.

This should be for educational purposes.

Please can you remind your child of this and make them aware that they risk their phone being confiscated if they use it inappropriately.

Finally, below is a simple reminder of which gates students should be using to enter and exit the school. Please remind your child to stick to this and to sanitise as soon as possible on arriving., and this should be after 8.20am:

- **YEAR 7** **Front Pedestrian gate**
- **YEAR 8** **East Delivery gate**
- **YEAR 9** **East Delivery gate**
- **YEAR 10** **Front Pedestrian gate**
- **YEAR 11** **East Pedestrian gate**
- **YEAR 12** **East Pedestrian gate**
- **YEAR 13** **Delivery gate**

Whilst this is an ever-changing situation, I just want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to make the school as safe as it can be, without losing the sense of who and what we are. From what I have seen this week, Borden remains a school with humanity and relationships at its heart.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,

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

Ashley Tomlin
Headteacher

Enc. Well-being external agencies

Well Being

It's good to talk

Where to find support:

Chat Health

A text service for young people aged 11-19. Young people can text direct on 07520 618850 and ask for counselling (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday).

KOOTH

A mental health and wellbeing online platform for young people aged 10-16. The service is free and can be accessed at www.kooth.com. Get advice, information and support 24/7. Chat to a friendly, qualified counsellor Monday-Friday between 12noon-10pm and Saturday and Sunday between 6pm-10pm.

CHILDLINE - 0800 1111
SAMARITANS - 116 123
IN CRISIS - text 'shout' to 85258
NO PANIC - 0330 606 1174
ALLSORTS (LGBTQU) - 01273 721211
www.moodspark.org.uk
www.kentresiliencehub.org.uk

Release the Pressure

24/7 expert advice from trained counsellors, for every mental health concern. Go to releasethepressure.uk, text the word Kent to 85258 or phone 0800 107 0160 for free confidential support at any time.



TALK & LISTEN.
BE THERE.
FEEL CONNECTED



DO WHAT YOU CAN.
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO.
MOVE YOUR BODY



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES.
SEE OPPORTUNITIES.
SURPRISE YOURSELF



Your time,
your words,
your presence



Made with PosterMyWall.com

Email us at: wellbeing@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk