



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL  
AND SIXTH FORM**  
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

17 December 2020

**Official Sensitive**

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to update you on the current situation at Hedingham School.

It has been a challenging time for all the school community, in particular, for those who have had to change plans and routines. My overwhelming feeling as we approach the end of this unique term is one of pride. Pride in the community for all your support in such difficult times, pride in our students who have responded so maturely and responsibly given the huge limitations placed on their lives, and pride in all of our staff who have had to adapt and take on many additional duties. Despite the challenges of the last two weeks, I have been very pleased in the way that the whole school community has responded over this last term.

As you are aware, the decision to move the school to 'remote learning' was based on the health and safety of all members of the school community. A circuit break was required to reduce the transmission of the virus within the school. Furthermore, an outside cleaning company, was contracted to provide a 'deep clean' of the school building. We have also reviewed our risk assessment and updated where necessary.

We have worked hard over the last two weeks to ensure that there has been appropriate and varied provision for your son/daughter through our Home Learning platform. Staff have been impressed by the way the majority of students have responded and this will allow us to resume with a full educational programme when we all return. I understand that it has been difficult for some students to motivate themselves to adjust to Home Learning at the end of a long term. Despite this, most students have shown incredible resilience and the staff have been able to provide a continuity in learning. Some of the work has been outstanding, demonstrating a real commitment and dedication to their studies. Again, as I repeatedly stated during the first lockdown period, students can only do their best.

**Monday 4 January 2021 Return - Safety Measures in School**

Please remind students of the following safety procedures:

- Please ensure that your son/daughter is equipped with a face covering. This should be worn at the school bus stop and when travelling on the school buses. Students must remain seated in their allocated year group zone.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times when moving around the building and in indoor communal areas. Face coverings are still optional for students in classrooms, however, in some practical subjects which require more movement, they will be required to wear a face covering.
- Please ensure that your children have all necessary equipment for school (please refer to our website for list of equipment)
- Students will sanitise their hands on entry and exit of classrooms. Students will wipe down their own desks and chairs with antibacterial spray at the end of each lesson.
- All equipment in practical subjects will be sanitised between lessons.
- Students should remain in their own year group 'social zones' at all times.
- Students should follow the 'one-way' system and use outdoor routes whenever possible (please ensure your son/daughter brings in an outdoor coat).
- Whilst the 2m distance rule is difficult to maintain in a class or year group bubble please remind students that it is important to respect the 'space' between themselves and other students.

**First Day Back (4 January 2021)**

Reminders:

- Students will continue with their normal entry routines in school.
- Students who have a PE or Dance lesson should attend in the required uniform and will be expected to wear their school blazers.

Reminder:

PE Uniform – In addition to PE kit, students are permitted to wear black or navy tracksuit bottoms/ leggings along with their blazer/black jumper/outside coat

Dance Uniform – Students can wear plain black leggings, black school Dance polo top (or KS3 PE top) and their blazer. If they are cold, they can also wear a black jumper, but this should be in addition to their blazer.

- Students will receive safety procedure reminders in their form period on Day 1.
- School catch-up programme will commence on 4 January 2021.

### Covid-19 Guidance

Please use this link for further information about symptoms and testing: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>  
However, I would like to summarise the key points and emphasise the need for a cautious approach at this time:

- If your son/daughter develops any of the Covid symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell **then PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL AND SEEK A TEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- **In the instance that your son/daughter is unwell and you are unsure whether symptoms are Covid related, please seek medical advice (NHS 119).**
- Covid tests can be arranged via <https://www.nhs/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
- Any student who develops the symptoms above during the school day must report to the medical room as soon as possible.
- Please report any Covid-19 related absence to the school by using the usual attendance reporting system or email [enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk) These messages will be picked up on our return to school.
- A reminder that the new isolation period for close contacts has been reduced to 10 days (from 14 days).

### Safeguarding:

If you have any safeguarding concerns about your own or someone else's family during the Christmas break, please do not hesitate in contacting Essex Safeguarding Children's Board on 0345 603 7627.

Our Facebook site also has a flyer about emergency support available from the Essential Living Fund (ELF) as well as a leaflet on Safe in Essex programme and support for young people over the next two weeks. The Safe in Essex programme has also been sent to your child's Form Microsoft Team page.

Finally, as stated in my previous correspondence, we wish all the students and staff who have contracted the Covid-19 virus a speedy recovery. I would also like to send my very best wishes to Amanda Bird, who is retiring at the end of this term. She has been a dedicated and committed member of staff who has been at the school for over 25 years. She was the leader of English for many years and has since supported the school by teaching Modern Foreign Languages.

It is, of course, a great shame that we are missing the usual trappings of December at Hedingham School; the Christmas concerts, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas dinners and many classroom celebration events.

We are all disappointed that we are not able to be together at the end of the Christmas term and enjoy some of the activities planned. However, our main priority has always been the health and safety of the school and wider community.

Please take care and stay safe over the Christmas holidays.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Harvison  
Headteacher

Headteacher • Andrew Harvison BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Yeldham Road • Sible Hedingham • Essex • CO9 3QH • Telephone 01787 460470

e-mail: [enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@hedingham.essex.sch.uk) • Website: [www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk](http://www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk) • Registered Company No. 8330173