



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL  
AND SIXTH FORM  
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

5 March 2021

**Official Sensitive**

Dear Parent/Guardian

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your efforts over the last few months. As parents, I know that you have all been faced with difficult circumstances, not only with supporting your son/daughter with Home Learning, but with other personal challenges during the lockdown period. Obviously, as a school, we have been pleased with how our students have responded and we are very proud of their achievements. I would like to thank you for all the positive feedback that we have received. All Hedingham staff are looking forward to seeing the students next week in order for us all to resume normal education.

I have attached to this letter the guidance for parents and students for the 10 March return. The whole planning process has been conducted using the Government guidelines and updated accordingly. The main priority is to ensure that students and staff in the school are safe within the school environment. We also want to ensure that we can offer a full curriculum experience for our students. Obviously, there will be some modification of provision, for example, activities in practical subjects.

In the attached document, you will see that the organisational structure of the school will operate in the same way as the pre-lockdown period. The school will continue to operate in Year Group bubbles which will minimise contact and mixing in the wider school population. Students will continue to use Year Group social zones and there will be a one-way system in place.

The system will run smoothly if all members of the school community conform to the behaviour expectations of the school. Please discuss this with your son/daughter and highlight the need to maintain strict personal hygiene and conduct around the school building. An updated summary of the Behaviour Policy is available on the school website.

Furthermore, we are working closely with our team of staff to implement a 'recovery curriculum'. The curriculum has been based on three key principles:

**Reconnection:** Focus on building positive relationships, re-establishing normal routines, addressing student well-being and motivation.

**Recovery:** Focus on curriculum delivery, addressing progress gaps, additional support through catch-up sessions, all building confidence.

**Resilience:** Focus on building resilience in learning, preparing for future challenges, developing independence in learning.

To support the learning and progress in classrooms, we will continue with the programme of Catch-up support.

Transport guidelines are available on the school website. Once again, students must ensure that they follow the guidelines clearly and not compromise the health and safety of themselves or others. Students will be required to sit in Year Group zones which will be visible on buses. Students should then stay in their seat for the duration of the journey. Face coverings are mandatory for the length of the bus journey. Bus companies will operate a strict system and will not tolerate poor behaviour on buses.

Students will be expected to wear normal school uniform on return to school. For students with a practical PE or Dance lesson on a particular day, we will allow students to wear PE kit all day. This must be the regulation Hedingham PE kit (see Behaviour Policy for details).

**Attendance**

The Government is very clear that all students should return to school from the 8 March. We will expect all students to attend lessons unless they are shielding, ill or display Covid-19 symptoms.

## Well-Being

We appreciate that some students may be anxious about returning to school. Therefore, we have planned a two-week tutorial programme focused on hope, connection and belonging. This will promote discussions with their tutors on such issues as self-belief and re-connecting. By sharing their anxieties and uncertainties, we hope students will start to look forward from what has been a challenging 12 months for them all.

As well as this, students will continue to complete their weekly 'mood scales' which ensures every child in the school has a voice to express how they are feeling. In turn, appropriate support will be put in place.

There are several resources on our Facebook page which may be of use to families and our website has well-being links for both parents and students. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Student Support Centre or your child's Year Leader.

## Testing

The operational programme of testing in school can be found on the school website via the following link: <http://www.hedingham.essex.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Operational-Plan-for-Mass-Testing-March-2021.pdf> Once the in-school programme has been completed we will provide information about the Home Testing arrangements for students and families.

## Awarding Examination Grades, Summer 2021 (Year 11 and 13)

The outcomes of the OFQUAL consultation regarding the awarding of summer grades were published last week. We are currently trawling through the detail of this and will be communicating with further detail in writing and through a follow-up Q&A opportunity for parents.

The summary statement from the DfE is here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=2568affc-1ccd-40cf-af75-2e775650b1a2&utm\\_content=immediately](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teacher-assessed-grades-for-students?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=2568affc-1ccd-40cf-af75-2e775650b1a2&utm_content=immediately)

Students and parents should be reassured that there are no nasty surprises with this announcement and it is not dissimilar to what we were expecting. Initially, it appears that OFQUAL guidelines gives flexibility to schools in managing the process in the way that best works for them and their students. As such, our process for the assessment and awarding of grades will be able to give all students the opportunity to perform at their best, with good time to enable them prepare them for any future assessments and for us to fully support them in doing so.

Please read through the contents of this letter and the attached guidance with your son/daughter before returning to school on Wednesday 10 March. Students will follow the same 'arrival' arrangements and will attend Period 1 as normal (please check Week 2 timetable). At the start of Period 1 subject teachers will remind students of school procedures. This will be followed up in their tutorial periods throughout the first week.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to you all in relation to your efforts over the last few months. There have been some positive relationships built up with parents, tutors and subject teachers. This partnership needs to remain strong as we return to a 'normal' in school provision. Communication with yourselves is a key priority and please keep us informed of any concerns or issues that you may have.

We all look forward to seeing the students return to full school life next week.

I wish you all a restful and relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Harvison  
Headteacher

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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

