



**Bexley Grammar School**  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the half term holiday in this extraordinary summer term!

I wanted to touch base with you before the break although I really do not have much to add to what I wrote last week. It remains the case that students in years 7, 8 and 9 will not be attending school on site this term.

We are still awaiting the planned government announcements on 28th May and further secondary-specific guidance on the expected face-to-face contact with years 10 and 12 to support and supplement the remote learning of these examination cohorts. My previously stated hope to offer "some contact with these year groups from Monday 8th June at the earliest" still stands but will be guided by the expected information nearer the time. It is frustrating for us all that we are unable to finalise planning in these areas but in the meantime we have been busy getting ready.

We have been experimenting with 'covid-safe' classroom layouts and planning enhanced cleaning regimes as well as looking at possible timetables and so on. It is useful for us all to be aware of the 'Hierarchy of Controls' laid out in the government guidance which guide our priorities when making plans and which I have abbreviated to:

1. Coronavirus symptoms - must not attend - isolated and sent home
2. Emphasis on personal hygiene (hand washing)
3. Respiratory hygiene - "catch it, bin it, kill it."
4. Enhanced cleaning regimes
5. Minimising contact and mixing - timetables, staggered starts/finishes, numbers, etc.

There are also concerns about the use of public transport along with a host of smaller but significant operational issues.

Whatever we are able to implement, when we have the necessary information and guidance, we will, of course, continue to have the safety of your children and of our teachers as the top priority in all our decision-making.

It is still the case that it looks unlikely that any one student in year 10 or 12 would be in school for more than one or two days per week. It is important to acknowledge that remote learning will continue to be the primary medium for your children for the rest of this academic year.

#### Other information:

It is with great regret that I have to announce that we are having to cancel year 11 Work Experience (for the current year 10) in October. I know how much work you and the school, specifically the

year 10 team and Mrs Aspill have put into this. However, employers have been pulling out of the scheme and it is clear that conditions are simply not conducive to students seeking placements. I would still urge individual students to seek, for themselves, placements over the half term holidays instead but I'm afraid the school is unable to support a coordinated programme this year.

Mrs Carey has organised a weekly Library book collection scheme - the first was on Wednesday when 18 students came to reception at the appointed time, carefully observed social distancing, and collected the books that our librarian had put in individually-named carrier bags for them.

Finally, I trust that you and your children will make the most of the change to routines that the break next week allows and that you will enjoy the benefits of the small concessions to the lockdown conditions in what looks like reasonable weather.

Best wishes and keep safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SE Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick