



**Bexley Grammar School**  
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A Specialist Language College  
and IB World School  
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**Dear Year 8 & Year 9 Parents/Carers,**

I trust this finds you well and feeling more optimistic about the future. I write to update you on what to expect for these last few weeks.

As we hear of a range of restrictions being lifted we can feel more hopeful about reaching the end of this difficult time. Thank you for your patience and commitment in staying the course this term. The longer remote learning continues the harder students feel it is to concentrate at home, and the very warm weather does not help. They must remember that keeping up for these last few weeks will put them in a more secure position in September.

Before the end of term, you will have received a phone call from your child's form tutor as a pastoral/wellbeing check. We will be in contact with students soon to make appointments, asking for parents/carers and students to be available during a one-hour slot over the next two weeks. The call cannot be more than 10 minutes per family, perhaps 5 minutes with the parent/carer and 5 minutes with the student. The focus will be on making pastoral contact rather than exploring academic progress, addressing questions such as how both you and your child have adapted to life in lockdown, what has worked well and what has presented challenges. We would like to hear how students are making the best of the current situation and discuss any obstacles as they prepare for what we hope will be a return to something close to normal in September.

In addition, we will be completing a report for each student, close to our usual format but with adjustments in the absence of regular classroom teaching. We will be unable to report on the new option subjects for year 9 students so your reports will be focused on the core subjects and languages. The phone call, explained above, will replace the tutor comment in the reports for both year 8 and year 9.

Please share this information with your daughter/son and reassure them that the end of this is in sight. There is much talk in the media about all the learning that has been 'lost' and the potential damage that some young people will have suffered. I am not being complacent when I assert that the vast majority of students have risen to the challenges of remote learning and that teachers have planned for near-normal coverage of the curriculum. We are working closely with individual students who have found this period particularly difficult - it is completely understandable that some will have found it more challenging than others. But children are always more resilient than we give them credit for and I am optimistic that, with careful review and planning, we will see that your children are on track as they move up a year group in September.

Thank you again for your support and patience in taking on aspects of the school's usual role over these past months. Something resembling normal is now in sight.

Best wishes,

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

Steve Elphick