



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great pride and appreciation that I write to you for the first time as Headteacher of Bexley Grammar School. The fact that there have only been 6 Headteachers since the school first opened in 1955 is testament to the stability and continuity that has been the backbone of the school's ongoing success. I feel extremely privileged to join the select group of people to have led this wonderful institution, the last of whom I will miss working with very much. Stephen Elphick has been a tremendous leader of the school through quite unprecedented and troubling times, always maintaining a calm head and composed approach to the most testing of circumstances. I sincerely hope that you will see him again at upcoming school events.

We were extremely proud to have our Outstanding school status renewed by OFSTED during the Autumn Term. Whilst a wonderful affirmation of our staff and students' work, the important duty of continuing to strive for excellence remains a key aim of the school's leadership and something that I am determined to maintain. Having joined the school in 2005 as someone new to the teaching profession, I have seen first hand what an amazing, meritocratic vehicle for social mobility our school is. I look forward to seeing our Year 11s and 13s embrace the opportunity that the examinations provide this summer and I'm sure that they will go on to do their very best and achieve accordingly.

We have further industrial action to navigate on the 27th April and 2nd May but, as has been the case previously, we will try to limit the disruption to the learning of our students. I intend to have Years 7, 9, 11 and 12 (Year 10 continue with their exams) in school on Thursday 27th April and Years 8, 10, 11 (Year 12 will have an IB Core Day, working from home) on Tuesday 2nd May. Parents / Carers of children deemed to be vulnerable will be contacted directly by the safeguarding, SEND or other relevant staff. Given the real possibility that parents / carers will struggle to see teaching staff on that day I have also taken the decision to move the Year 8 Parents' Evening from Tuesday 2nd May to Tuesday 9th May. I appreciate that this change may interfere with plans that you may have but, on balance, I think it is more likely to lead to a productive Parents' Evening experience for the greater number of people.

Further into the term, our School Production, Summer Fayre and Speech Day are always landmark events in the school calendar and it will be lovely to celebrate them fully with you. I particularly look forward to meeting many of you in person at events such as these, and the many concerts and sports fixtures we will host in the coming months.

Best wishes,

H J Gilmore
Headteacher