



Battle Abbey School
Battle
East Sussex
TN33 0AD
Telephone 01424 772385
Facsimile 01424 773573

Headmaster: David Clark, BA, M Phil (Cantab)

Letter to parents, 27th March 2020

Dear parents,

I am sure that, by now, you are getting used to the realities of life and that your families have developed new and interesting routines and rhythms for each day. Amid the difficulties facing the nation, there are a multitude of good news stories and hearing, for example, that over 500,000 people have volunteered to support the NHS is hugely heartening.

At Battle Abbey School, life has changed beyond all recognition and we are effectively in semi lock-down – as we are still caring for a small number of boarders as well as children of key workers. I still come to the Abbey every day to catch up with people (at a safe distance I might add!) and I am in touch with many of our staff on a daily basis. Mrs Shoemith and Mrs Rapley have assembled a brilliant team at our Bexhill site too and I am so grateful to everyone there for everything that they are doing. Needless to say, the positive and can-do spirit of our staff is shining through and I have been so impressed with the way that they have embraced virtual learning in such a short space of time.

We have also recently launched BAS T.V. and I have loved seeing all the films that have been downloaded and you will have the chance to see many of them as they appear on one of our social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. Equally, I highly recommend you looking at the video of Guys & Dolls which now appears on Youtube – great entertainment and follow this link if needed <https://www.facebook.com/BattleAbbeySchool/>.

This has clearly been a big challenge for all parts of our community and I am especially conscious of the disruption caused to our year 11 and 13 students. Their official exams have been cancelled for next term but with that bad news comes a valuable opportunity. The teachers of those year groups will now be tasked by the exam boards to use as much academic data as possible to produce accurate predicted grades for their students. This means that everyone in those year groups has a chance to re-submit assignments, undertake mock assessments and basically do all they can to show their teachers that they have the drive and commitment to get the best grades possible. So, the moral of the story is for them to keep connected, attend all virtual lessons and liaise as regularly as necessary with each of their subject teachers.

The national and international picture, though serious, is constantly changing and there is very real hope that schools will reopen during the summer term. If that is the case (and I am confident it will happen) then we will have the chance to bid farewell properly to all our leavers and we can then really support all existing students to get back up to speed with their learning.

I will be in touch again by letter before the official end of the term with updates about financial matters and other logistical issues and, in the meantime, I wish you a safe and productive time in isolation.

Best wishes to you all.

David Clark