



Battle Abbey School
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Headmaster: David Clark, BA, M Phil (Cantab)
Friday 8th May 2020

Dear Parents,

By now you will have received my recent letter about fees and I was delighted that the School was able to give something back to parents during these difficult days and, once again, I was overwhelmed at the generosity of some parents who opted to put the additional discount into the hardship fund. Thank you.

Getting on top of the School's finances has been a real priority for the Governors in the last few weeks and, as a result, I apologise that we have been tardy in clarifying 6th form scholarships for September and Year 11 parents will receive notification about those scholarships in the coming days.

It would appear that most of us are now in fairly set lock-down routines and it is equally clear that the virtual learning is well established and, after a few teething problems, is (largely) working effectively. We are, nevertheless, still learning as we go and hence we have surveyed all students to ask them to share their thoughts with us and to suggest improvements and Mr Austen-White will be in touch with a small group of parents in order to garner their feedback too.

Before that, I am grateful to the many parents who have sent messages of support and encouragement to our teachers – those sentiments really do give everyone a real boost. There has also been a very positive reaction to our postings on social media and I would urge you, once again, to watch the entertaining and, at times, inspirational items you will find on Facebook, BAS TV (accessible via Firefly) or Instagram. I am not a great user of social media but I do log in each day and I have loved seeing the likes of 'Live from the Hive', 'This Day in History' and some of the academic lectures delivered by staff.

We have tried hard, as a school, to ensure regular communication with our parent body and we will endeavor to continue doing that for the remainder of this term. Parents will receive grades and reports as usual and I want to point out that I won't be writing reports electronically this term. Instead, I am keen to send postcards to our students as I believe that they deserve to receive something tangible rather than another message sent virtually. Keeping up to date with Firefly is another useful tool for all of us and, if you haven't done so already, please look at the 'Working from home' folder on the Firefly dashboard as it is full of resources to support the wellbeing of both students and parents and it offers advice on how to maintain the highest levels of e-safety when online.

I am hugely privileged to live and work in such a beautiful place as Battle Abbey but I am, nonetheless, looking forward to hearing news from the Government on the measures that will be taken to ease the lock-down. If we consider that, today, we are celebrating VE day – it would be good to think that soon, we will be celebrating VC day (Victory over Covid).

Have a lovely long weekend and stay safe.

David Clark