



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

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

Letter to parents 5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you had a lovely half-term and managed to enjoy quality time as a family. Since returning, our Prep School has welcomed students back in reception and Years 1 and 6 and our Nursery also re-opened and I am so proud of the way in which both staff and children have responded. I popped over to our Bexhill site on Wednesday and it was lovely to see how excited everyone was about returning to school and there was a really positive atmosphere and everyone has adapted effortlessly to the new health and safety protocols and restrictions.

As far as the senior school is concerned, I was keen, for my first assembly back, to remind students of the wonderful Abbey grounds and so I put together a video on my phone to show off a few of the special corners of the site. Until the Covid crisis struck, I had very much steered clear of any involvement on social media but, since the lock-down, I have seen its value in terms of keeping the Battle Abbey community connected and I have embraced the fact that we can celebrate the creative output of our staff and students. Your on-going support in viewing and sharing posts on Facebook is therefore much appreciated.

One of the highlights of my week currently is teaching a Geo Politics module on the Pre U course to the Year 13 students. As you can imagine, we are grappling with some interesting and complex international issues and we are questioning, for example, the extent to which the EU, the UK and the USA are united. The news from America at the moment is desperately sad and I am grateful that both Mrs Ingall and Mrs Buckland are putting together some resources to enable our students to discuss and reflect on the notions of rights, equality and respect and more details about those will come out early next week.

These are clearly difficult times for our students as they face up to the challenges of lockdown and remote learning but it is important that they continue to learn about and understand global matters too. They also need to get themselves ready for the assessment week that starts on Monday 15th June and I am grateful to Mr. Austen-White for the way he has put together a flexible yet meaningful programme of tasks for different year groups. I am also indebted to him, to heads of department and to our examinations officer, Mrs Claire Licence, for all their help and hard work in collating information to confirm predicted grades for those in examination year groups. It has been a monumental task ensuring that each student is given a fair and evidence-based grade that the exam boards can treat with the utmost confidence. We are aware, however, that there are likely to be anomalies that surface in August so we would urge all those in Years 11 and 13 to **retain any school work, past papers, coursework etc** - just in case we need to make appeals to the boards following the publication of results.

Next Friday I will be in a position to give you a clearer picture of dates and events scheduled to take place before the end of term. Our plans for the Year 10 and Year 12 students should also be finalised by then but it is sadly clear that we cannot open our boarding houses for the remainder of this term – and we are very sorry about that. We will also need to be adaptable when it comes to some of the important summer school traditions like speech day and leavers assembly and we will do our best to ensure that they are occasions that can be enjoyed by the entire student body.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a restful weekend and, as ever, stay safe.

David Clark