



Hove Park School
"Together We Achieve"

Nevill Campus: Nevill Rd, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7BN
Tel: +44 (0)1273 295000/1 Fax: +44 (0)1273 295009

Valley Campus: Hangleton Way, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8AA
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Email: office@hovepark.org.uk

Mr Jim Roberts- Headteacher

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last four months have challenged us all in more ways than we can imagine. Despite the difficulties faced, we have continued to look after our loved ones, friends and family, and at the same time, worked together as a community to support each other and keep students learning.

As a parent of two secondary-aged children myself, I know how tough home-schooling has been and would like to pay tribute to the support of all parents and carers, in helping their children plan, prioritise and engage in their remote learning timetable. Your support here has been invaluable. I would also like to acknowledge Hove Park staff who have continuously developed their skills in delivering online learning. In March, we began by setting tasks on FireFly, which developed into delivering presentations with voice-over explanations and then finally over the last half term, providing live lessons through the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

I believe the last term has only reinforced what we knew to be true - that students learn best when they are in school, with teachers who care about their health and well-being, in addition to their learning and academic progress. The importance of school as a place of learning, nurture and support has never been more relevant.

This week we sent reports out to all students in all year groups, with a specific focus on how students have been able to engage in online learning. This means we will be able to adapt and re-model our curriculum plans, to ensure we are addressing lost learning time and gaps in knowledge which your child may have.

We are currently planning sessions for students who perhaps struggled to access their remote learning timetables, to gain further learning opportunities in the final weeks of August. Our *Ready for School* programme will include live lessons on TEAMS in specific subjects, as well as messages from individual Heads of Year. In addition, we have also organised for our school counsellor, Rose Scott, and Head of Pupil Wellbeing, Lauren

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Pinney, to deliver several webinars that parents and carers can access to support children who might be worried about returning to school, in September. The sessions will explore the emotional impact of the past few months, how children and young people might respond to stress differently and discuss practical strategies to support their successful return to school. There will be an opportunity to ask questions directly to school staff and discuss your concerns.

I have included some further information about our *Return to School* webinars below.

Who's this event for?

Parents, carers and adults who have children returning to school in September.

Where will it be?

This event will take place on Microsoft Teams and details of how to join will be sent 24hours prior to the event.

When will it be?

Tuesday 25th August/Thursday 27th August/Tuesday 1st September.

The sessions will be organised through a booking system. The links to book are highlighted below:

Tuesday 25th August, 7pm-9pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-young-people-returning-to-school-tickets-113467815290>

Thursday 27th August, 10am – 12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-young-people-returning-to-school-tickets-113473223466>

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Tuesday 1st September, 1pm-3pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-young-people-returning-to-school-tickets-113473257568>

I will send further information about our *Ready for School* programme and how students can access the additional learning opportunities, in the next couple of weeks. I have also attached some additional information about support organisations that parents and carers can access during the summer holidays.

Despite the challenges of recent months, I take huge pride in the way our school has adapted and continued to move forward. I am pleased to let you know that during this term, we secured planning permission to move forward next year with a significant building programme, that will transform the school environment on both campuses.

I am conscious that students in year 11 and year 13 have been unable to take part in a number of key events, that would have formed the normal student leaving experience. I am sorry that we haven't been able to recognise and acknowledge their time at Hove Park and say goodbye properly at their Prom, or leavers assembly. I hope we will see many of the students at the end of August, when they return to collect their GCSE and A level results. Some will be returning to Hove Park 6th form, but wherever their next steps may take them, we wish them our very best for the future.

The autumn term will undoubtedly feel different for all schools across the country, but it is clear that as a community we have demonstrated a resilience and determination to overcome the barriers and obstacles that Covid-19 has presented. With your support, I remain positive and optimistic about the year ahead as the school continues to develop and grow.

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We are looking forward to welcoming back all students in September but time now for a rest and an opportunity to be with family and friends. This will be my last weekly update letter. I will of course write again if things change over the summer.

Best wishes,

Jim Roberts, Head teacher

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