

# SHOEBURYNNESS HIGH SCHOOL

*A member of SECAT (Southend East Community Academy Trust)*



29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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Headteacher: Ms. C. Costello

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well but I am also aware that the pandemic continues to impact many of us within our families and communities.

The announcement was made this week that schools will not fully reopen to all students until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest, when it is hoped that the roll out of vaccinations and the impact of lockdown will make it safer to do so. In a webinar yesterday attended by other Headteachers and our local Director of Public Health we were told that the number of positive cases within our local area continues to be high amongst the whole population including those within the school age group. Public Health is encouraging all of us to get regular testing even where we are asymptomatic, as screening does continue to reveal positive tests in those who have no symptoms and feel completely well.

As a reminder, there are six testing sites within our local area; three offer PCR testing and three offer the Lateral Flow Tests (LFD tests). The closest to most of us is in the Shoeburyness Youth Centre which offers LFD testing seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. for walk-ins and by appointment.

More information on all testing sites can be found at <https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/12>

Thank you to the large number of you who have already responded to our survey on remote learning. This survey runs until February 1<sup>st</sup> but as a result of concerns raised about the amount of time spent at devices and student wellbeing, we have amended the length of period 2 and 3 for our younger students in Key Stage 3. Choosing this method minimises disruption to the student's day as the starting times for lessons remain the same and so there is no confusion to a routine they will now be familiar with.

We have reduced the length of period 2 and 3 so that the length of each lesson is now more balanced and gives a larger break between them.

	<b>START TIME (NO CHANGE)</b>	<b>Current finish time</b>	<b>NEW FINISH TIME</b>	<b>NEW LENGTH OF EACH LESSON</b>	<b>EXTENDED BREAK TIME</b>
Period 1	8:30	9:00	9:00	30 (NO CHANGE)	
Period 2	9:00	10:55	10:35	95 (-20 MINUTES)	Gives 50 min break until period 3
Period 3	11:25	13:05	12:55	90 (-10 MINUTES)	Gives 40 minute break until period 4
Period 4	13:35	15:00	15:00	85 (NO CHANGE)	
				300 minutes = 5 hours	

You will see that we are still meeting the government expectation of five hours provision but hopefully you will agree that this provides more balance to your child's day which is even more important now that we know remote learning is going to be in place for some weeks yet.

We have taken the decision not to shorten the lessons for our older students because, to be honest, now is not the time to be reducing this provision whilst so much is still unknown about the details of the assessment processes ahead.

In support of remote learning we have issued 125 laptops since our return in January and we have more that we are accessing from the DfE and from our own resources. Please continue to contact us about difficulties with devices as our lists of those needing support are 'live' and constantly updated.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and in relation to this we are very fortunate to have the support of Trustlinks, a local registered charity who have offered to provide a wellbeing roadshow for our students. These wellbeing sessions will run the week before and the week after the half term break and more information will be with you next week regarding these.

Our Academic Year Leaders are also now running student voice sessions in each year group using Teams meetings; different groups of students are being invited to share their feedback on their learning and their views on how they are coping. This feedback is another very important strand that will help us to continue to improve what we do.

In a similar vein we are also investing in a platform to support the running of virtual parent's evenings. We are conscious that for some of you the disruption caused by the pandemic has meant that you have not yet had an opportunity to meet face to face with your child's teachers and so we will be addressing this in the coming weeks. Whilst we hope that all of our students will return to onsite provision shortly after half term, it is likely that it will still be some time before we can run onsite parents evenings and so it is important that we organise a sustainable alternative. We will be in touch with details of how these will run in due course.

Finally, you may have seen on our Twitter page that Shoeburyness High School was recently named by the National School's Sports Magazine's as one of the Top 200 sporting schools in the country. This a huge achievement by our fabulous students and the staff that put so much time into coaching and developing their skills. We look forward to when we can get back to such activities.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to respond to our questionnaire please do so; it really does help us develop our provision.

Have a peaceful weekend.

**Clare Costello**

**Headteacher**

