

Hayle Academy

Dear Parents/ Carers

Further to my previous email, I am contacting all parents to provided updated information about the school's plans to manage the risk of Coronovirus infection over coming months. The school has received detailed advice and support from Truro and Penwith Academy Trust and is following guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education. These organisations are providing daily updates for schools and parents will understand that this advice is continuing to change in response to local and national cases.

The Government has a 4 staged approach:

1. Contain: detect early cases and prevent the disease from spreading for as long as reasonably possible.
2. Delay: slow the spread, lowering the impact and pushing it away from the winter
3. Research: to better understand the virus and the actions needed, including research into drug treatment and vaccination
4. Mitigate: provide the best care possible for people who become ill, support hospitals, public services and the economy.

At the present time, the Contain phase is still active nationally, and we have been told by the DfE that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) case of COVID-19 unless advised to do so. Should this happen, our emergency school closure procedures will be used, and parents will be informed by email and via our website. Please help us to maintain good communication with parents by ensuring we have up to date email contact details for you. This is very important at this time.

Public Health England advice about reducing the risk of infection focuses on hand hygiene. We will be sharing key information with students via their tutors which includes: washing hands with soap and water often and particularly before eating, (hand sanitiser may not be as effective as soap and hot water), avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throwing this in a bin. Our school is well stocked with soap, and hand sanitiser is available at Reception for school visitors. In addition, all computer rooms have supplies of disinfectant for students to clean keyboards before and after use.

The key symptoms of Coronovirus infection are a cough, difficulty in breathing, a temperature (above 38 degrees C). Students or staff exhibiting these symptoms should contact NHS 111 for advice and follow the advice with regards to self-isolation. At the current time, the advice from the DfE is that the absence of students who are required to self-isolate by Public Health England will be authorised.



3 Highlanes, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4DN
enquiries@hayleacademy.net
www.hayleacademy.net - 01736 753009
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Jan Woodhouse
Head of School: Mr Dan Mather

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Students who are not required to self-isolate by Public Health England should continue to attend school and parents requiring further advice should contact Miss Andrea Daddow (andrea.daddow@hayleacademy.net) in the first instance. We would ask all parents for their support in ensuring that, if their child is required to self-isolate, they follow this advice and inform the school. This is extremely important.

Should there be a confirmed case of Coronavirus, then the school will inform Public Health (who will provide further advice), TPAT, Governors and the Local Authority. We will also inform other local schools who we work closely with, and who may have families linked to the confirmed case. We will also, importantly, inform parents so that our families are kept updated.

At this time, we are anticipating that there could be some disruption to education for students over the remainder of the school year. We are unable at this stage to predict the scale of this disruption. This is likely to arise at some point as a result of higher levels of staff absence, and because we may be required to close the school for a period of time.

Our plans to be able to continue to set work for students, during any period of disruption, are reliant on students having access to their online learning accounts: this includes Show My Homework, as well as subject specific programmes like those used in Maths and Science. Parents without reliable online access for their children are asked to inform the school by emailing enquiries@hayleacademy.net. We will keep a list of students for whom we need to provide alternative resources. Parents are advised that it will be more difficult for us to provide work without online access and that we may have to provide different activities and resources if students cannot get access to their online accounts from home.

We will do our utmost to minimise any school closure: for example, it may be possible for us to be partially open to particular year groups in response to higher levels of staff absence. In these circumstances we will prioritise Year 11 students (to support their continued preparation for GCSE exams) and Year 7 students (who are likely to need higher levels of adult supervision, making it more difficult for parents if we are closed). If the school closes as a preventative measure, teachers will continue to work from home (providing they are well enough to do so), and will therefore be able to set and mark work for their classes. Teachers of maths, English, science, geography, history and Spanish will continue to do this through any period of school closure, as will option subject teachers for examination classes. We hope parents will understand why teachers of other subjects, which require specialist equipment (such as art, music, drama and PE) will not continue to set work if the school has to close.

Students in Year 11 and their families will be particularly concerned about the possibility of school closure over coming weeks. Please be assured we will do our very best to support Year 11 students and that we are working closely with the national exam boards around managing any impact on the GCSE exams. The exam boards have established systems for dealing with student absence and individual schools where exams are disrupted: this includes 'special consideration' applications which can be applied to individual students or whole classes. At this time, parents with children in Year 11 are reminded that the exam boards have a contingency 'window' for the GCSEs which extends until Wednesday 24th June. This extended period is there to

provide for national re-scheduling of exams should this be required. Students therefore need to be available throughout this period. Our exams officer, Mrs Daddow, will keep parents updated about any changes to exam timetables or procedures that we may have to implement.

We are continuing to closely monitor the national, local and international developments and to make any required adjustments to our planned trips and visits. It is possible that our extra-curricular programme could also be affected, and this includes our Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and Ten Tors preparation. Parents will be kept fully informed if their child is due to participate in a trip and trip leaders will be in regular contact with families about our plans.

I hope this information is helpful to our parents and families. I am aware that we have children in our school, and family members who have serious underlying health conditions: parents with individual concerns should contact NHS 111 for advice and keep the school informed about any specific concerns affecting our children. Essential to our schools is that parents and students follow Public Health England advice with regards to self-isolation and, in the interest of the health of our school community, parents should know that we will not admit a student or member of staff to our school site where this would contravene Public Health England advice.

Along with senior leaders in the school, I will keep parents fully updated about our management plans and would like to thank parents, in advance, for their ongoing support. Our priorities remain, as always, the safety of our students and the highest quality of education provision.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jan Woodhouse, Executive Headteacher

Useful contact details for parents:

NHS 111: for advice about health and suspected cases of Coronavirus.

Department for Education Helpline 0800 046 8687 or email

DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk (8am-6pm Monday to Friday)