

Hayle Academy

13th December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The halls are decked, the trees are dressed, and while we do not have chestnuts roasting on an open fire, the festive spirit is well and truly alive at Hayle Academy. Once again, our students have shown us what fantastic and generous ambassadors they are for our community. Last Friday, some wonderful (and some ghastly – mine included!) Christmas jumpers were on show, with students making donations to Save the Children as part of national Christmas Jumper Day. Hayle Academy raised a fantastic £246.28. Alongside this, our annual “shoebox appeal” where students collect and wrap Christmas gift packages, to share via charities with vulnerable families was concluded. Our students collected an incredible 123 boxes, smashing last years’ record of 53. Also shared on Friday was our festive showcase, "Christmas Crackers 2021" - featuring performances from our amazing and talented students. I know that many parents and carers have seen this already, with over 4000 views on Facebook already, however if not there is a link at the end of this paragraph; we’d advise you to stay tuned until the end for a very special collaboration with our partner primary schools - <https://vimeo.com/654460356>

As we move into the final week of term, I am making contact to share a range of updates with you as we move into the Christmas holidays. These updates include:

- Confirmation of end of term arrangements
- Free school meals holiday arrangements
- Student COVID testing arrangements in January and consent survey

1. End of term arrangements

As we move through this week, students will be concluding their learning in each subject and I would like to thank all our students in advance for continuing to work hard and focus right until the very end. Each morning, from Monday to Wednesday, the top 30 students for each year group on attendance (not counting COVID-related absence) and house points, will be invited to a celebration breakfast with school leaders. On Friday 17th, we will conclude the day with our festive end of term. This will be a non-school uniform day (for a small donation) and students will have the chance to take part in festive quizzes, activities and prize draws, centred around positive engagement in school and learning. Students will have lunch as normal and the day will conclude with dismissal from school at 12:20pm, with those students taking the bus being transported home at that time.

2. Free school meals holiday arrangements

I am pleased to confirm that in line with guidance from Cornwall Council, families who qualify for free school meals will be issued with vouchers to support food provision over the festive break. Vouchers will be distributed electronically to those families, to the value of £15 per week, per child, to cover the two-week break.

3. Student COVID testing arrangements in January and consent survey

I know that many students, parents and carers will be reading and listening to the news surrounding the Omicron variant of COVID-19 with concern. Students have responded so very well to our

requests to support mask wearing in school these last few weeks, and continuing with the twice-weekly COVID testing at home is a crucial part of the system of controls as well. As we are all likely to mix differently over the Christmas break, all schools have been asked to offer a round of testing to all students on the return to school in January. At the end of this paragraph is a link to a testing survey and I would ask parents and carers to complete the survey and indicate if this offer of an in-school test is something you would like to take up, or whether you intend for your child to continue testing at home. In order to facilitate the in-school testing, there will need to be a delayed return to school in the first week of January. Staff training is taking place on Tuesday 4th January, and in-school testing on Wednesday 5th January. Depending on numbers, testing may need to continue on Thursday 6th January. Therefore students will return to school on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th January; please complete the survey no later than 6pm on Thursday 16th December, so that we can collate the survey and confirm testing and return arrangements for all students, and share these with you on Friday 17th December.

[Click here to take the COVID testing survey - once per child](#)

In closing, as ever we are very grateful for the ongoing support of parents and carers. Wishing you all a very merry, restful and safe Christmas.

With best wishes,



Mr Simon Horner
Head of School



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