

Hayle Academy

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Following the Governments announcements about school closures next week, from Monday 23rd March, we are expecting further clarification later today on the full details of their plan.

We now know that Year 11 exams will not go ahead in the summer. We do not yet know how students' qualifications will be awarded but have been told that more information will come into schools this week. Our Year 11 students are understandably concerned and would like know what this means. As soon as the school has more information we will let you know and in the meantime, it is essential that Year 11 students continue to complete their classwork, controlled assessment tasks and the practical exams we have currently taking place as all these could be used to inform decisions about their qualifications.

At this time, the school is planning to operate on a 'business as usual' basis for the children of key workers. There is currently no further information about who these keyworkers are. As a best estimate, we are assuming this will be NHS staff, emergency services, social care, forces personnel, teachers and school staff, and delivery drivers. The list of key workers is expected from the Government later today. At this early stage it would be very helpful for our planning if parents who think they are likely to be keyworkers and who need their children to continue to attend school let us know this. Please email us on enquiries@hayleacademy.net to register with us that you will need us to have your children in school next week. We need you to do this by Friday at 12.00 midday at the very latest.

The school will also be open to our most vulnerable children. The information currently available from the Government is that this is children with an Education Health Care Plan and those with social care involvement. Again the school will be open on a 'business as usual' basis for these children.

Our staff are working hard to support children, to reassure them and to continue to provide for their education. 'Business as usual' means we are maintaining our expectations about behaviour, conduct, the normal timings of the school day, uniform, reporting absence (if your children are still attending school) and we will run a full timetable of lessons providing we have sufficient healthy staff to be able to do so. We will also have a catering service available to students and we are working with our catering company to plan for provision of meals for students who are eligible for a free school meal.

I would like to thank all our parents for their continued support and understanding whilst we await clarification from the Government about their plans for schools from next week. I know that for many families, closing schools will make their lives more difficult at an already challenging time, and will inevitably disrupt education for children. For children who do not attend school from Monday, online learning will be provided through Show My Homework and, whilst this is a compromise in terms of the quality of provision, we hope that this will support their continued progress through the period of school closure. The Government has been clear that they feel it is in the national interest for schools to close and therefore, with regret, we can only be open for children of keyworkers and those identified as the most vulnerable.

I will provide more information for parents as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jan Woodhouse, Executive Headteacher

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