

# Hayle Academy

July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

As parents will know, we are working behind the scenes on preparations for September and we are delighted that we will be re-opening to our students once more at the start of the Autumn Term. It seems a very long time since the lockdown began back in March, and we know parents and students will be looking forward to returning to more normal school routines, as are our staff.

Detailed Government guidance was published for schools on re-opening last week, and we will be implementing robust measures, in line with this guidance, to protect the safety of our school community and minimise the risk of transmission. Although we cannot be '100% risk free', the Government has assured us that working within these guidelines will mean that schools are safe places for staff and students. The key safety measures that we will implement are:

- **Minimising contact with any members of the school community who are unwell by ensuring that anyone with Covid-19 symptoms, or who has someone in their household with symptoms, does not attend school.**
- **Putting in place strong routines around additional hand washing and sanitising, and respiratory hygiene (the 'catch it, bin it, kill it approach)**
- **Increasing routine cleaning of the school environment including cleaning classrooms, surfaces and toilets and using disinfectants to do so.**

We will also be adapting our usual routines to ensure that:

- Contact between students whilst in school is reduced, and where possible they are socially distanced from each other by at least 1m. This will be achieved by creating 'school bubbles' within which students will mix with other students, but remain separated from other 'bubbles'. Our school bubbles are likely to be based around year groups which, in our school, limits contacts and enables us to provide a broad and rich curriculum.
- Socially distancing is in place between students and staff: this is to ensure that staff do not transmit the virus between bubbles as they move to teach different classes on their timetables.



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Head of School: Mr Simon Horner

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Due to the number of students in our school, school transport including school buses, and the complexity of managing the school day, we do not intend to stagger the start and finish times of the school day. Instead we will operate social distancing routines on the school site and allocate separate entrances and exits for different bubbles, as well as bubble-specific toilets and classrooms.

The school day is likely to be altered (keeping the start and finish times the same) and adjusting lesson times so that all students have a lunch break of around 35 minutes roughly midway through the day. This means that we will not have a mid-morning break. To separate students during lunch we will operate a split lunch, with some students having tutor times, study sessions or taught lessons (which will include 'catch up' provision for some students) whilst others are on lunch. I am sure you will appreciate that keeping bubbles separate during social time is not straightforward and staggering lesson times for 5 different year groups is unworkable. This simpler solution will provide a structured school day which balances students' time in class with an important opportunity to socialise with friends, whilst maintaining social distancing where possible and remaining within their school bubble.

By adapting our school routines, we are confident that we can continue to provide all students with a broad and balanced curriculum. We do not anticipate that we will need to cut lessons from our students' timetables or reduce the breadth of their qualification courses in Years 10 or 11. Our focus will be on ensuring that students can return to school confidently and with optimism for the year ahead.

In order to help us to do this, we would like to ensure we have additional teacher and pastoral team capacity to support students in their first few days. Parents with older children in school will know that we usually start our Year 7 and 11 students before the other students return. We plan to do this in September, with Year 7 and 11 returning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. For students in Years 8, 9 and 10 we will also stagger their start, so that on their first day in school, their year group is the only 'new group' to return that day. This means that all students will be back in school by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, with each year group being allocated their own 'first day back' during that week.



Also, within our plan, I can confirm that:

- All students will return in full school uniform. We will provide further details of the PE kit required for the Autumn Term next week.
- Individual support will be available for any student who finds the transition back to school more difficult. If you feel your child may need some additional help in the Autumn Term to make a confident return, please contact our pastoral team: for students in Years 7 and 8, Mr Wyatt on [clive.wyatt@hayleacademy.net](mailto:clive.wyatt@hayleacademy.net); for students in Years 9, 10 and 11, Mrs Parker on [emma.parker@hayleacademy.net](mailto:emma.parker@hayleacademy.net).
- Students with special educational needs, including those with an EHCP, will have individual support plans as required and managed by our SENDCo, Mr Woodward. Parents whose children have SEND can contact Mr Woodward for advice or support on [james.woodward@hayleacademy.net](mailto:james.woodward@hayleacademy.net)

All these arrangements will, once in place, remain under review and will be subject to revision in response to emerging national or local developments. We will consult regularly with staff, students and parents to review how our plans are working and to ensure we continue to adapt to the needs of our school community. We expect to review our plans at least monthly in the Autumn Term and we will continue to communicate regularly with parents about any developments that are required.

I hope this initial outline is helpful to parents as an early indication of our planning and approach. We will have a detailed plan, and accompanying risk assessment, prepared in consultation with Governors and the Trust, to share with parents next week. We look forward to being able to provide parents with this next stage of our re-opening plan. In the meantime, if our staff team can be of any support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Simon Horner  
Head of School

