

Hayle Academy

6th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am delighted to be able to write to you to welcome your child back to school at the start of a new academic year. Teachers have been working hard on exciting developments to our curriculum and teaching approaches and our focus for this term will be ensuring all students are confident and happy as they settle back into classrooms and school routines: we know that happy confident children are able to make the most progress in their learning. Combined with our inspiring, challenging teaching, we will also be offering our well established high quality pastoral care and support: given the disruption that children have experienced over the last two years, we know that having a trusted adult on hand can make a huge difference. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of our staff team if you have any questions or need advice about your child returning to school this week.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students from Year 7 and Year 11 back into school starting on Wednesday 8th September, and students from Years 8, 9 and 10 on Thursday 9th September. On both days, students will spend the first lesson with their tutors, getting prepared for the new year. Staff will be on hand at the school gate to direct students to the correct rooms. Students starting Year 7 will start the day with a welcome assembly, and will be escorted from the assembly to their tutor room. Tutors will spend time with students reviewing timetables, the times of the school day and school expectations, as well as some team building and welcome back activities.

We are going to do all we can to make school as 'normal' as possible for children, to avoid and minimise any possible disruption by the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. This means we need the support of all our families. There are 2 important ways families can help:

1. Ensure your child attends school every day when they are fit and well. Do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of possible Covid 19 infection: a high temperature, new persistent cough or change or loss of taste or smell.
2. As well as testing prior to the return to school, ensure your child continues to take twice weekly home tests until further notice. Test kits are available from the school.

The Government guidance for schools has changed significantly since last year and this includes that there is no longer any requirement for social distancing, separate bubbles or the use of face masks in classrooms. Because of high local levels of cases, all members of school (both staff and students) are asked to wear face masks in corridors and communal areas as an 'enhanced measure'. This requirement will be reviewed by Public Health at the end of September and we will keep parents and students updated on any changes. We very much hope that local cases will continue to fall and that these enhanced measures will only be needed for a short period of time. Good ventilation by opening windows and doors, regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and use of hand sanitiser/hand washing will also continue to be encouraged in school. As was the case last year, we will continue to have a small supply of masks available at a cost price of 20p, for those students that forget their masks. Where students have an agreed exemption from wearing a mask, this will continue to be respected.

The Government's rules on self- isolation have changed considerably. Here is a short summary on the current requirements:

1. A child with symptoms of possible Covid 19 infection must not attend school. The symptoms are a high temperature, a new persistent cough and/or a loss or change to taste or smell. If your child has any of these symptoms, please let us know by contacting our absence line on 01736 800556 and keep them at home. Arrange for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible by contacting NHS Test and Trace. The web address is www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. If your child tests negative they may return to school immediately (when they are well enough to do so). If they test positive they will need to self- isolate for the next 10 days from when the symptoms started. The Test and Trace service will provide advice about when the self- isolation period starts and finishes. Please ensure that you tell us these important dates so that we can provide school work for your child to complete while they are unable to be in school.
2. If your child has no symptoms but tests positive using the home test kits, then they must also self- isolate at home. Again, parents should arrange for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible by contacting NHS Test and Trace. If they test negative they may return to school when they are well enough to do so. If they test positive they will need to self- isolate for the next 10 days from when the symptoms started. Again, the Test and Trace service will provide advice about when the self- isolation period starts and finishes. Please ensure that you tell us these important dates so that we can provide school work for your child to complete while they are unable to be in school.
3. If your child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive (e.g. another member of the family, or a friend) they are **not required** to self- isolate. This is because children under the age of 18 are exempt from self- isolation rules. Parents should arrange for the child to take a PCR test as soon as possible: providing it is negative, your child can continue to attend school as normal. The Government guidance confirms that close contacts do not need to wear face masks in school, but that it is expected that they will wear a mask if travelling on public or school transport. If your child tests negative, but later develops symptoms, you should follow the guidance in Step 1 above.

Parents are asked to note that all contact tracing is now being managed by the NHS Test and Trace service. More information about self- isolation requirements is available on [NHS Test and Trace: what to do if you are contacted - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/nhs-test-and-trace).

I hope this is a useful summary of the requirements and that, with your support, we can ensure that our entire school community experiences minimal disruption over coming months. Our priorities remain the safety, education and wellbeing of our students and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Simon Horner
Head of School



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