

# Hayle Academy

9 March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

As the coronavirus continues to spread and the first case is confirmed in Cornwall, I would like to reassure parents that we have a full and comprehensive contingency plan in place to protect our students' health and minimise disruption to their education. I will share more details about our planning with you next week, including our plans to support students preparing for their GCSE exams.

Key messages from the Government continue to be the importance of hand hygiene to slow the spread of the virus. We will be emphasising the importance of this with students next week through tutor time. We would really appreciate your support in repeating these messages at home. The update information from the Department for Education today includes this information about hygiene: "Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more: and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water. In addition to handwashing before eating and after sneezing, both children and staff should also wash hands after using toilets and after travelling on public transport."

The school requires children and staff to self-isolate in line with the advice from Public Health England: parents can help us by keeping us updated if they travel to higher risk areas and ensuring that if they do, the advice about when to self-isolate is followed.

I would also like to reassure parents that the school will remain open unless we are required to close by Public Health England. Should this happen, we will do all we can to protect the continuity of education for our students. We have plans in place to use our online learning systems and resources, and I will share more details with parents about this next week. In the meantime, parents are asked to ensure that we have up to date email addresses to be able to keep in contact with you, and that children have online access wherever possible. If families are unable to arrange reliable online access for their children, please let us know so that we can ensure we plan alternative arrangements for these students.

I know this is a worrying time for parents. Please be assured that we will follow Public Health England and Department for Education guidance to the letter. The school being fully supported by the expertise of our Governors and Truro and Penwith Academy Trust and our planning has the health and well-being and education of our students at its core. As always, if parents have any questions or would like advice, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jan Woodhouse, Executive Headteacher

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