

Hayle Academy

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to school for the start of the Spring Term. I hope you and your family have enjoyed a relaxing break over Christmas and that students are rested and ready for the term ahead. No doubt many of you will have been keeping an eye on recent announcements by the Department for Education and the changes to national policy with regards to Covid 19. Here is a summary of the current guidance and procedures for your reference:

- Please continue to be vigilant about your child's health. **Students with symptoms of possible Covid 19 infection must NOT attend school.** These are: a high temperature, a new or persistent cough, and a loss or change to smell or taste. If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible via the NHS Testing Service.
- **Regular Testing:** please ensure your child takes at least one test (either in school or at home) before the start of term (Wednesday January 5th). Please continue to test your child at least twice a week using the home testing kits. We have been promised a good supply of testing kits for students by the Department for Education, so if your child needs additional tests, please ask at Reception. All testing results should be reported to NHS Tests and Trace.
- **Face Coverings** should be worn by all students in classrooms and communal areas and on school transport. This guidance will be in place for schools until Wednesday 26th January. Please ensure your child has **at least 2** face coverings each day. If your child is exempt for a medical reason, please ensure that we are informed by emailing enquiries@hayleacademy.net.

These requirements are essential to minimise the risk of transmission, and the disruption this will inevitably cause to our students' education. In addition, we continue to have enhanced cleaning and ventilation in place throughout the school. Please ensure your child has an additional layer e.g. a plain white T shirt, under their school uniform, as the school buildings will be colder than is ideal as we have windows and doors open.

- **Self Isolation periods.** Individuals who are confirmed as positive for Covid 19 may now end their self isolation after 7 days providing they test negative on Days 6 and 7. This means that students (and staff) will be able to return to school on or after Day 7, once the negative test result has been confirmed. Students (and staff) who test on the mornings of day 6 and 7, before school, can return on day 7.
- **Close Contacts** of anyone who is a confirmed case should take a LFT every day for 7 days. Providing this test is negative and they have no symptoms, students can continue to attend school as usual.
- **Please ensure that you keep the school fully informed if your child has symptoms or is confirmed as having Covid 19.**

Recognising how essential it is for our children's education to keep the school open, we will do our utmost to minimise disruption. With regret, the availability of supply teachers is very limited at the moment and should we get significant levels of staff absence, we may have to close to some students. In these circumstances, we will continue to prioritise face to face education for Year 11 and our youngest students, recognising that supervising children at home is very difficult for working families. We will only close as a last resort, and we will do our utmost to remain fully open to all students if at all possible. Should we have to close, we will try to give parents as much notice as possible and information will be provided by email, the school website and via our Facebook account. Please ensure we have accurate and up to date contact details so we can keep all our families fully informed.

On behalf of all staff at Hayle Academy, I would like to wish all our families a very happy and healthy new year.

Yours faithfully

Simon Horner
Head of School

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