



Hayle Academy

3rd March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to welcome students back from the half term break and what a positive start to this new half term it has been.

Within lessons, students demonstrate a strong learning focus and a thirst for new knowledge and understanding. Both staff and students really value their iPad as a learning tool, and this has been embedded well to enhance their learning, which is clear to see in lessons and in student and staff feedback. Visitors to the school continue to compliment our students on their exemplary conduct, and we couldn't be prouder of them.

There are so many examples of how our students embrace each opportunity so positively and how they make the most of their learning, both inside and outside of the classroom. For example, last Wednesday Year 9 students were brilliant ambassadors for our school at the Hayle Careers Fayre. In addition, a group of Year 10 students last Friday went to University of Bristol as they graduated from the Scholars Programme with flying colours! Furthermore, as part of the exciting next stage of our Legacy Project, students have left a lasting legacy by investing in our community; they were involved in a building project last week that has led to the further enhancement of the flooring for our outdoor classroom area. Thank you to everyone involved.

There have been so many other examples that I could mention, but in particular it would be remiss of me not to mention the stand out yet incredibly poignant residential trip that took place over 5 days from 12th February as part of our History curriculum. Students visited Berlin and Krakow, which included a tour of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Our students were an absolute credit to our school and community. One student who spoke to me last week about the trip told me about how memorable it was; they will never forget it. In their words, "Everyone must see it for themselves". Many thanks to Miss Weeks who led and organised the trip, as well as to all staff involved for your time and support: Mr Woodward, Mrs Hicks and Mr Taylor.

Staffing and Leadership Team Update

I am sure that you will join with me to congratulate Mr Woodward, Deputy Headteacher, who has been appointed to the new role of Director of Inclusion within the Truro and Penwith Academy Trust from Easter 2025. Mr Woodward joined the school in 2019, just after me, and throughout his time - initially as an Assistant Headteacher and over the last two years as Deputy Headteacher - he has made a significant contribution to our school's positive improvement. He is incredibly passionate about inclusion and has been a strong advocate for children with special educational needs, and their families, at all levels. Although he will be missed, we will continue to work closely with him in his new role, which will be to the benefit of thousands of children across both primary and secondary schools within our Trust and across Cornwall. As a school team, we wish him every success, and I would like to thank him for all of his support and care, going above and beyond to support our children, families and our community - each and every time.

Following a rigorous and robust recruitment process, with a high level of interest within and outside of county, I am delighted to announce that Mr Croker has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher. Mr Croker's investment in our students, school and community shone throughout the process and I look forward to working with him in his new role.

Furthermore, I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Mrs Barry all the very best as she moves on from our school. Mrs Barry's infectious passion for Music has inspired our students, supporting so many to learn an instrument or to try new things, such as our Hayle Carnival Samba band, Boardmasters performance or even our Shrek the Musical. Although tinged with sadness, we do send Mrs Barry best wishes for the future and many thanks for the lasting Music legacy that she has built and led.

The school has appointed Mrs Brown to the role of Music Teacher from Easter 2025. Mrs Brown is a very experienced Music Teacher who is looking forward to starting with us. Given Mrs Brown's appointment, I would also like to take the opportunity to say thank you to Mr McPhail who has been teaching Music this year at our school and for all of your contributions and support for our students' Music education.

Consultation: School Day from September 2025

Last January, I invited feedback from our community regarding the proposed changes to our school day from September 2025 as there is the need to increase our school day by fifteen minutes. Many thanks to all who provided feedback, which is valued by us as a school.

This is so that our school meets the government expectation given their updated guidance on the minimum length of the school week. They expect schools to offer at least 32.5 hours per week. This is for the number of core school hours for mainstream schools as a minimum expectation, not including any non-compulsory after-school activities, such as extra-curricular clubs or revision sessions.

In summary, the findings are as follows:

- 89% at least agreed that they supported the earlier start time of 8.45am.
- 81% at least agreed that they supported the extension of lesson time (periods 2 and 3) so that each lesson is 75 minutes long.
- 70% at least agreed with the extension to the lunchtime rotation.
- 74% at least agreed with the finish time of 3.15pm.

Therefore, from September 2025, we will be adjusting the school day to the following:

08:45	Warm Welcome	
09:00	Lesson 1	
10:15	Break	
10:30	Lesson 2	
11:45	5 minute comfort break	
11:50	Lesson 3	
13:05	Lunch for Y7, 9, 11	Literacy Y8 and 10
13:35	Literacy Y7, 9, 11	Lunch for Y8 and 10
14:05	Lesson 4	
15.15	End of Day	

I wish to assure you that I have taken on board any additional comments made as part of this decision-making process. I can confirm that the canteen will be open before school, which supports students' access to breakfast and supports an earlier drop-off to school.

Following feedback from our primary partners, can I ask from September that students who are transported by car arrive well before 8.45am, which helps to support the road use along St George's Road and High Lanes, particularly given that the school start times will be the same across primary and secondary so that we can work together to reduce any congestion and ensure the safety of all children on their journeys to and from school.

The catering provider, Aspens, and county transport have been fully aware of the consultation and have been informed of the findings. This includes transport provided for ARB students as there will be a slight change to their start and finish times; Miss Thomson will be in contact direct with families of students in our ARB with more details.

You will be aware that further consultation opportunities have taken place over the course of this year. Thank you to all of our families who have contributed. The mobile phone policy consultation has now closed and the findings are currently being reviewed. Following the over-subscription criteria consultation for the Admissions Policy 2026-27, the Trust Admissions Policy has been approved by Trustees and the policy is now available on the Trust website: [Truro and Penwith Academy Trust - Policies](#).

Term Dates 2025-26

Looking ahead to the next academic year **2025-2026**, I wanted to re-share the term dates for the next academic year along with the confirmed staff training dates. They are available on our website: [Term dates and Parental Calendar - Hayle Academy](#)

Please note that we have also developed a parental calendar overview of key dates to help to support our communication, which is also available in the term dates section of the website above.

What is my child studying this half term?

If you would like to find out more about what your child is studying at Hayle Academy over this half term and onwards, please take a look at our Spring 2 curriculum calendar, which is available here: [Whole School Curriculum Calendar 2023-24](#).

The curriculum section of our website contains even more information about each of our subject areas and their 5 year curriculum pathways.

You may also be interested in our Options offer for current Year 9 students, which can be found here: [Year 9 Options 2025 - Hayle Academy](#), as our Year 9 students make their decisions and informed choices about their Key Stage 4 pathways for 2025 – 2027. Thank you to our Year 9 families and students for all of your support in this important process.

Key Dates:

- **Year 11 Spring mock exams** commence from today for the next fortnight. We wish students the very best of luck. Y11 study support continues as normal during this time and, in response to feedback, we have extended our **study bus offer to include Fridays** across the half term. This is available to Y11 and to other year groups involved in Hayle Xtra clubs.

- It is National Careers Week this week. As part of this, our Year 10 students are on their work experience placements. Thank you to all of our work experience partners and providers for providing our students with this invaluable experience.
- Happy St Piran's Day to our families and community for the 5th March!
- We are celebrating **World Book Day** on Thursday 6th March with a range of exciting opportunities and challenges. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 can sign up to dress up as a recognisable book character. Please note that Thursday is **not** a non-uniform day. Students are expected to wear either full school uniform or KS3 book character costume. There will be a book fayre and KS3 students can collect their free book. Other reading challenges are available – please contact our librarian, Miss Rice via mrice@hayle.tpacademytrust.org or visit our Facebook page for more information.
- **Tuesday 4th March** – KS3 Drama Club theatre trip to Redruth.
- **Thursday 6th March** – Performing Arts theatre trip to Theatre Royal, Plymouth, for some Year 9 students.
- **Monday 10th March until Friday 21st March** – Year 7 and Year 10 assessment window.
- **Wednesday 19th March** – residential trip to Oxford University for Year 11 students.
- **Thursday 20th March** – some Year 10 students begin their partnership work with The Tate Create.
- **From Thursday 27th March**, the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition takes place for two nights.
- **End of Spring term:** the last day in school for students for this term is **Friday 4th April** and school will end at the normal time.
- Students will return to school as normal on **Tuesday 22nd April** at the start of the Summer term.
- **Save the date: Year 7 and Year 8** parents and carers are invited with their child to attend our **open classroom evening on Tuesday 29th April from 3.30pm**. This provides the opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers as well as review their work. No appointments are necessary.

Thank you for all of your continued support; your close communication is very much appreciated and valued as we work together to ensure the highest quality education and provision for your child.

If you would like to discuss any further support for your child or any aspect of their education, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Melissa Lock
Headteacher

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Headteacher: Mrs Melissa Lock

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