



HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

'Be the very best you can be'

10 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on the current situation in relation to opening the college to students and the provisional arrangements for the final week of term.

Firstly, I would like to apologise if this week's update letter has very similar information to last week's. I was hoping to be able to write to you with more positive news but unfortunately, the staffing situation in college remains a significant challenge on a daily basis.

As I have stated in previous letters, a key factor in being able to open the college to all students at this time is the teaching staff capacity. You will be aware that over the past few weeks this has been seriously impacted by staff either contracting the virus or having to self-isolate as a result of being a close contact to another individual. This has significantly affected our ability to open the school fully for most of this term and students in various year groups have needed to access remote learning from home.

Unfortunately, as we are still in a position where we have a shortage of available teaching staff, I have needed to make the very difficult decision to continue to ask some year groups to access remote learning from home for the final week of term.

Next week: 14 December 2020

The primary phase is open as usual.

The secondary phase will continue to be open to students in **Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13.**

Years 8 and 9 will continue to work from home. They will receive remote learning through a blended learning approach. Students and parents/carers are able to contact teachers via Firefly with any queries they may have about the work. If you have any problems accessing the online work, please contact us and we will ensure paper copies are made available.

Our keyworker and vulnerable learner provision will continue to be available for Years 8 and 9.

Please note that the Year 9 HPV vaccinations will be going ahead. Parents/carers of Year 9 students will receive an email with all the details about how they are going to take place.

Last day of term: Friday 18 December 2020

The college will be open to students in Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as detailed above, as well as to keyworker and vulnerable learners in Years 8 and 9. It will be a non-uniform day and we would like to encourage learners to wear a Christmas jumper to help us all get into the holiday spirit. If anybody wishes to make a small donation, we will be collecting money for St Wilfrid's Hospice.

All students will be dismissed from college at 12.30pm. Anybody requiring a Free School Meal will be able to collect a packed lunch from the canteen.

Cont/...

Contact us

I would like to thank parents/carers for their kind words of support over the past few weeks. It has meant a huge amount to me and my staff during what has been a very challenging time for everyone. I would also like to thank those parents/carers who have contacted us over recent weeks, asking questions and sharing concerns. We really do understand how worrying this time is and how difficult it has been for families, and although we may not always have the answers you would like to hear, we will always do our best to support where we can.

Once again, Ms Findlay, Acting Associate Principal and Mr Marsden, Head of Sixth Form will be available tomorrow, Friday 11 December to speak to parents and carers who have any queries either by phone or video link as necessary. To help us organise this, please email hcc@hccat.net or telephone 01323 841468, stating whether you would like a call back or would prefer a virtual face to face meeting.

I can assure you that there is nothing more I would wish for at this time than to have the college open to all year groups and for college life to return to normal. I fully appreciate how frustrating the current situation continues to be for many of our families and I would sincerely hope for, and expect the college to be open to all year groups from the beginning of next term.

Please can I remind parents/carers that Monday 4 January is an INSET day and students therefore, return on Tuesday 5 January. We will be open to all students in all year groups unless we communicate otherwise.

Once again, we will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and I will write to parents and carers next week with a further update.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Phil Matthews
Executive Principal

Coronavirus Symptoms

The [NHS website](#) gives details about how to check for the main coronavirus symptoms.

As a reminder: if you, your child or anyone you live with develops **any** of the following symptoms:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature and/or
- A loss or change to their sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

then you must follow [Government guidance to stay at home](#).

Should your child become sick or need to self-isolate, please report this to us by following normal absence procedures. **If your child feels unwell and has a test which is positive, please can you ensure you still inform the college regardless of whether or not they are attending. We will need to know the date from when they first experienced symptoms, as well as the date that the result was received.**

You can use [NHS 111 online](#) if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next. If you have any other questions or concerns, please get in touch with the school by telephone or by emailing hcc@hccat.net