



# HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

*'Be the very best you can be'*

12 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start today's letter with a huge thank you to all our students and to our parents and carers too. After what seems like an endless amount of planning and preparation, I am delighted to report that we have had a fantastic first week back!

The numbers in college have grown on a day by day basis as we welcome each year group back and at the time of writing, we are almost full with Years 7 – 10 and Sixth Form in lessons and Year 11s coming in for the first of their Covid-19 tests. Students have been brilliant, settling into their lessons with ease and genuinely enjoying being back in college with their friends once more.

We are all so impressed with the way students have responded to the testing programme. They have been amazing, following all instructions impeccably and really doing their bit to keep their community safe. So far this week we have carried out 1280 tests and expect to do another 350 – 400 today. By the end of today, all year groups will have had at least one test, with Post 16, Year 7 and Year 8 having had two. The testing process will continue next week until students have had their three on site tests. Details about the home testing programme will be shared next week.

I am delighted to report that so far, all test results have been negative which is fantastic news but I am very conscious that we must not become complacent. I cannot stress enough how much we need students to follow all of the control measures we have on site. As I mentioned in my letter last week, the testing programme is an additional layer of protection on top of everything else and receiving a negative result does not mean that any of the other measures can be eased or ignored.

We are doing everything we can within college to keep one another safe but I am conscious that the country is still in lockdown and that students need to bear this in mind at all times. I would like to ask parents and carers for your support in reiterating to your child/ren that they must observe all social distancing measures and not gather in groups on their way to and from college. I know they are all excited to see their friends but the pandemic is still a significant concern and they must take responsibility for following the rules when out in the community.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions. We are here to help and support you.

Yours faithfully

Phil Matthews  
Executive Principal