



# HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

*'Be the very best you can be'*

MT/ac

16 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support during this difficult and worrying time. I am writing today with an update on the current position and I will do my best to be transparent with you as to the evolving situation going forward.

On arrival to college this morning, I became aware that there had been a further increase in positive Covid-19 cases over the weekend amongst both students and staff. I therefore, made the decision that Year 11 students should join the other year groups in working from home today whilst myself and the Senior Leadership Team assessed the situation. As explained in a previous letter, we have ensured that the children who have or may have been in close contact with the individuals who have tested positive for Covid-19 have been identified and their parents/carers have received a separate letter informing them that their child must stay at home and self isolate for 14 days.

I can now confirm that Year 11s, along with all other year groups, will work from home for the remainder of this week. This means that the college will remain open to a very small number of students through our keyworker and vulnerable learner facility.

I am sure you can appreciate that this is a rapidly changing picture that we are reassessing on a day by day and at times, hour by hour basis. We remain in contact with Public Health England and the Department for Education and are following their advice closely. Please be assured that the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community remains our foremost priority and all decisions will be made with that in mind.

Teachers will be setting work on Firefly and students and parents will be able to contact teachers via Firefly with any queries they may have. If you have any problems accessing the online work, please contact us and we will ensure paper copies are made available.

I cannot stress enough that we do not wish to put additional pressure onto learners and their families at such a difficult time. We know that remote learning presents challenges for many families. All we ask is that students try their best. If they do not understand the work or have any concerns about it, they should contact their teachers to let them know. We do understand and will do our best to support you.

## **Free School Meals**

We are able to provide a packed lunch for any child who is entitled to Free School Meals. To enable the kitchen to plan and prepare efficiently, please let us know by 10.00am if your child requires this service. The lunches will be available for collection between 12.00 – 12.30pm each day.

## **Key Workers / Vulnerable Learners**

At the current time, we are able to remain open for children of key workers (please follow this link for full details of the [key worker criteria](#)) and students in vulnerable groups. To keep everybody as safe as possible, children attending this facility are working in small, socially distanced year group bubbles

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spread across the college site. If you believe you meet the criteria and need to use the facility, please contact us with the name of your child and the keyworker category you fall into.

#### **Inset – Friday 20 November**

Friday 20 November is a scheduled Inset Day and the college will be closed to all students, including those who have been attending the keyworker/vulnerable learner provision.

Finally, I would like to be completely honest with you all about the position going forward. Clearly, this is an unprecedented situation and the apparent growth of the virus in the community is a great concern to us all. At this point, we plan to reopen the site to all students on Monday 23 November but I will be continuing to review the current situation during the next few days.

Whilst we are incredibly keen to have all students back on site, the health of learners, staff and the wider community has to be our greatest priority and I will only have students back when I am confident that the current rise in numbers is fully under control and that our own control measures can successfully minimise any further transmission. I will continue to monitor, review and assess the situation throughout the coming days and will write to parents and carers towards the end of this week with a further update.

In the meantime, as always please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns at 01323 841468 or email [hcc@hccat.net](mailto:hcc@hccat.net)

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](mailto:hcc@hccat.net)