



HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

'Be the very best you can be'

3 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are continuing to keep well.

This week I would like to start my letter with an apology. In my most recent letters I have stated my intention to be able to write to you this week outlining our plans for the reintegration of students to the college at the start of term in September. Unfortunately, the timing and magnitude of the government announcement yesterday is such that it will take a few days to digest and prepare plans according to the extensive guidance which has been provided.

However, the key points are as follows:

- The plan for all pupils, in all year groups to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.
- Schools will be asked to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day.
- Schools will employ a 'system of controls' to support the safe return of students.
- Schools will also need to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how they will ensure continuity of education.

Essential measures will include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together;
- avoiding contact between groups;
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks;
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible.

After discussion with Mr Redman, Head of School (Primary) we are confident that these measures can be relatively easily adopted in the primary school, however, meeting these requirements in a large secondary school setting is going to be a significant challenge and will necessitate some major changes to the way we work for a period of time. The guidance highlights the use of year group sized 'bubbles' as a model for minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distance where possible.

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This overarching principle is therefore, very likely to be at the heart of our planning and I hope to be able to write to you next week with more detail outlining the arrangements we will put in place for the full return of students to the college in September.

On a very different note, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some potentially very exciting developments at the college over the next two years. As you will no doubt be aware, Hailsham has been and is continuing to experience a significant amount of residential housing growth. Following extensive discussion around growing student numbers, the college in collaboration with East Sussex County Council will remodel, refurbish and extend the existing school accommodation to improve the teaching facilities and to cater for an additional 60 students in each year group at Key Stage 3 and 4.

The proposals include the redevelopment of the current Craft Block to provide a new three storey building and the development of an additional all-weather sport facility surface on the college field. It is hoped that if successful, the project would get underway in the autumn of this year with completion and provision of additional spaces by September 2022.

We are now at the public consultation stage of the process and attached to this letter is a copy of the leaflet inviting you to the public consultation event on Monday 6 July from 2.00 - 7.00pm in the main hall of the college. Please feel free to pop in to find out more about the proposed development and to give your views. Usual social distancing rules will apply.

Once again this week, it has been fantastic to see more students back in college, however our commitment to developing online learning continues and it is quite clear from yesterday's government announcement that schools should be prepared to continue to deliver high quality online learning in the autumn term should the circumstances in relation to Covid-19 require it.

As always, please do continue to contact us with any concerns, queries or general feedback at hcc@hccat.net

Wishing you a safe weekend.

Yours faithfully



Phil Matthews
Executive Principal