



6 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to College – additional information related to Covid-19 and key policies

At Helston Community College, we want teaching and learning in September to be as close as possible to normal. We plan to continue with an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects, which will be supplemented by carefully targeted activities to consolidate and enhance learning for key groups. A normal timetable will be in operation and students will move from lesson to lesson. Of course, our Pastoral Support Assistants and Learning Champions will also be on hand to support individuals who may struggle to re-adjust to the College environment and procedures after a long summer break.

We hope to run a full range of clubs and enrichment activities this year so that students can take part in the many opportunities that the College has to offer.

Health and safety measures

To mitigate the risk of Covid-19, we intend to follow the essential safety measures as designated by the Government, which are:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

To meet the requirements above we will carry out the following measures:

- We expect students and staff to adopt robust hygiene routines i.e. ‘Catch it’, ‘bin it’, ‘kill it’ for coughs and sneezes. In addition, we expect hands to be washed or sanitised when entering a College building and before and after any break, change of classroom or any eating.
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements will continue over the whole of the College day focusing on disinfecting shared surfaces regularly, toilets, handrails and surfaces in communal areas. Teachers will be in control of cleaning procedures within classrooms and will spray desks and chairs between each class.
- Resources that are shared, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned daily or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for an appropriate period of time.
- Many of the classrooms on North Site have active ventilation systems with a Covid airflow setting. Other classrooms will be ventilated by opening windows and wedging doors open. Internal teaching rooms which are lacking windows have appropriate ducted ventilation.

Current government advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- Fully vaccinated
- Below the age of 18 years 6 months
- Taken part in an approved Covid-19 vaccination trial
- Not able to be vaccinated on medical grounds

NHS Test and Trace have taken on the responsibility of informing people if they are a close contact to a confirmed positive case, and they will recommend that close contacts take a PCR test. We strongly encourage close contacts to take a PCR test if advised to do so. If a student is over 18 years 6 months, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to be vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Symptomatic students and staff

Anyone who exhibits symptoms or who has a positive lateral flow test, must isolate, and get a PCR test. This is regardless of their vaccine status. A negative PCR taken within 48 hours of a positive lateral flow test overrules the lateral flow result.

Symptomatic students and staff will be sent home however mild the symptoms. They should not use public transport. Students will be asked to wait in a well-ventilated room until they can be collected by a parent or carer.

Enhanced Response Area ("ERA") measures from September

Due to high rates of Covid-19 in the local population, face coverings must be worn by students, staff and visitors when moving around the College, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. The usual exemptions will apply. The ERA status will be reviewed at the end of September by the government.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend College.

We understand the potential concerns of students and parents/carers who may be reluctant or anxious about returning, and we are here to support all our families. Please contact us if you would like to discuss any concerns you may have about your child returning to College.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child wears the correct College uniform each day. If you are unsure of the correct uniform, please check the uniform list on the College website here: [HCC Uniform page](#). We are aware of problems with the supply of some uniform items and will obviously take this into account until stocks are fully available.

Positive behaviour

The College remains committed to high standards, and we encourage positive behaviour from students. We will continue to record Attitude to Learning (ATL) grades in our lesson registers, and encourage students to aim for grades 4 and 5 on our ATL scale.

Low-level disruption is tackled through our 'Ready to Learn' behaviour system and there are four simple rules:

- Follow instructions promptly
- Remain on task
- Listen when others are speaking
- Speak appropriately, with polite and respectful language

College Equipment

With Covid-19 still so prevalent in our community, it is more important than ever that students turn up with their own equipment and stationery. As a bare minimum, we recommend a pencil case containing a black, blue and green pen, pencil, ruler, pencil sharpener and eraser. Students should also have their own calculator. In the current circumstances, it would also be helpful if students have a glue stick and set of highlighters. Thank you for your support with this.

Mobile phones

Please remember that there is a ban on the use of mobile phones by students whilst on the College site. Mobile phones should be **'off and away'** at all times, and any phone seen or heard will be confiscated until the end of the day.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and hope for minimal disruption so that all our students have the opportunity to develop and flourish in a dynamic educational environment. If you have any concerns or worries, then the Pastoral Support Assistant is usually the first port of call, the relevant contact details of which can be found [here](#), and I have attached the return to College Schedule and Tutor details which you may find useful.

Very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Mr Wayne Jenkins
Headteacher